

**HB 3205 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

**Carrier:** Sen. Thomsen

**Senate Committee On Business and General Government**

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**Action Date:** 04/23/19

**Action:** Do pass the A-Eng bill.

**Vote:** 5-0-0-0

**Yeas:** 5 - Dembrow, Girod, Hass, Olsen, Riley

**Fiscal:** Has minimal fiscal impact

**Revenue:** No revenue impact

**Prepared By:** Tyler Larson, LPRO Analyst

**Meeting Dates:** 4/23

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Requires Public Utility Commission (PUC) to expand Telecommunication Devices Access Program to include providing communication facilitator services to persons who are deaf-blind when services are necessary. Defines "communication facilitator."

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Experience of being deaf-blind
- Need for communication resources to help individuals who are deaf-blind connect and interact

**EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

No amendment.

**BACKGROUND:**

In recognition of the large number of people in the state who are not able to utilize telecommunication equipment due to the inability to hear or speak well enough or due to other disabilities, the Legislative Assembly established the Telecommunication Devices Access Program in 1987. The program, administered by the Public Utility Commission with consultation of an advisory committee, purchases and distributes assistive communication equipment to persons who are deaf, deaf-blind, hard of hearing, or speech impaired, to be used in conjunction with the program's telecommunications relay service. House Bill 3205-A expands the program to include providing communication facilitator services to persons who are deaf-blind.