

1 AN ACT concerning government.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**  
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The Deaf and Hard of Hearing Commission Act is  
5 amended by changing Sections 5, 10, 15, 20, and 25 as follows:

6 (20 ILCS 3932/5)

7 Sec. 5. Definitions. As used in this Act, unless the  
8 context requires otherwise:

9 "Chairperson" means the Chairperson of the Deaf and Hard of  
10 Hearing Commission.

11 "Commission" means the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Commission.

12 "Commissioner" means a resident of the State who is  
13 appointed and confirmed by the Senate to govern the Commission.

14 "Director" means the Director of the Deaf and Hard of  
15 Hearing Commission, its Chief Executive Officer.

16 "Vice-Chairperson" means the Vice-Chairperson of the Deaf  
17 and Hard of Hearing Commission.

18 (Source: P.A. 89-680, eff. 1-1-97.)

19 (20 ILCS 3932/10)

20 Sec. 10. Commission. The Deaf and Hard of Hearing  
21 Commission is created as an executive agency of State  
22 government. The Commission shall be composed of 11

1 ~~commissioners members~~, governed by a chairperson, and headed by  
2 a Director, who shall serve as its chief executive officer  
3 ~~director.~~

4 (Source: P.A. 89-680, eff. 1-1-97.)

5 (20 ILCS 3932/15)

6 Sec. 15. Commission membership.

7 (a) The Commission shall be composed of 11 commissioners  
8 ~~voting members~~ appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the  
9 Senate from residents of the State whose position, knowledge,  
10 or experience enables them to reasonably represent the  
11 concerns, needs, and recommendations of deaf, deafblind, or  
12 hard of hearing persons. At a minimum, 8 commissioners ~~6 voting~~  
13 ~~members of the Commission~~ shall be persons who are deaf,  
14 deafblind, or hard of hearing, and the Commission shall consist  
15 of the following: -

16 (1) one parent or guardian of a deaf, deafblind, or  
17 hard of hearing minor child;

18 (2) one licensed sign language interpreter for the deaf  
19 or faculty member from an interpreter education program;

20 (3) one educator of the deaf or faculty member from a  
21 deaf education program;

22 (4) one Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor for the  
23 deaf or mental health professional for the deaf;

24 (5) one representative from a Center of Independent  
25 Living or community-based organization that serves a deaf,

1 deafblind, and hard of hearing population;

2 (6) one deafblind representative;

3 (7) one late-deafened representative; and

4 (8) four members at large who are deaf or hard of  
5 hearing.

6 The Chairperson of the Commission shall be elected from the  
7 Commission's membership by a simple majority vote of the total  
8 membership of the Commission. The Vice-Chairperson of the  
9 Commission shall be elected from the Commission's membership by  
10 a simple majority vote of the total membership of the  
11 Commission.

12 (b) The Governor shall consider nominations made by  
13 advocacy groups for the deaf and hard of hearing and  
14 community-based organizations.

15 (c) Of the initial commissioners ~~members~~ appointed by the  
16 Governor, 3 shall be appointed to terms of one year, 4 shall be  
17 appointed to terms of 2 years, and 4 shall be appointed to  
18 terms of 3 years. Thereafter, all commissioners ~~members~~ shall  
19 be appointed for terms of 3 years. No commissioner ~~member~~ shall  
20 serve more than 2 consecutive terms. A commissioner ~~member~~  
21 shall serve until his or her successor is appointed and  
22 qualified.

23 (d) Initial commissioners' ~~members'~~ terms of office shall  
24 be chosen by lot at the initial meeting of the Commission.

25 (e) Vacancies in Commission membership shall be filled in  
26 the same manner as initial appointments. Appointments to fill

1 vacancies occurring before the expiration of a term shall be  
2 for the remainder of the unexpired term.

3 (f) Commissioners ~~Members~~ shall not receive compensation  
4 for their services but shall be reimbursed for their actual  
5 expenses incurred in the performance of their duties plus up to  
6 \$50 per day for any actual loss of wages incurred in the  
7 performance of their duties.

8 (g) Total membership consists of the number of  
9 commissioners ~~voting members~~, as defined in this Section,  
10 excluding any vacant positions. A quorum shall consist of a  
11 simple majority of total membership and shall be sufficient to  
12 conduct the transaction of business of the Commission unless  
13 stipulated otherwise in the by-laws of the Commission.

14 (h) The Commission shall meet at least quarterly.

15 (Source: P.A. 93-647, eff. 6-1-04.)

16 (20 ILCS 3932/20)

17 Sec. 20. Director. The Director of the Commission shall  
18 have knowledge, experience, and background regarding the  
19 unique issues, programs, and services of deaf, deafblind, and  
20 hard of hearing individuals; be fluent in American Sign  
21 Language; have a minimum of a bachelor's degree; and a minimum  
22 of 5 years' experience in a deafness related leadership or  
23 management capacity. The foregoing qualifications shall apply  
24 to anyone who becomes Director on or after the effective date  
25 of this amendatory Act of the 100th General Assembly. The

1 Director shall be employed at-will, serve at the leisure of the  
2 Commission and shall be hired, supervised, evaluated, and  
3 terminated by the Commission. The Director, under the direction  
4 of the Commission, shall carry out the policies, programs, and  
5 activities of the Commission. The Director shall employ, in  
6 accordance with the provisions of the Illinois Personnel Code,  
7 manage, and organize the staff of the Commission as he or she  
8 deems appropriate.

9 (Source: P.A. 93-647, eff. 6-1-04.)

10 (20 ILCS 3932/25)

11 Sec. 25. Powers and duties of the Commission. The  
12 Commission shall be a coordinating and advocating body that  
13 acts on behalf of the interests of persons in Illinois who are  
14 deaf, deafblind, or hard of hearing, including children,  
15 adults, senior citizens, and those with any additional  
16 disability. The Commission shall submit an annual report of its  
17 activities to the Governor and the General Assembly on January  
18 1st of each year. The Commission shall:

19 (1) Make available and provide an educational and  
20 informational program through printed materials, workshop  
21 and training sessions, presentations, demonstrations, and  
22 public awareness events about hearing loss for citizens in  
23 Illinois and for public and private entities. The program  
24 shall include, but not be limited to, information  
25 concerning information and referral services, lending

1 libraries, service and resource availability, the  
2 interpreter registry, accessibility and accommodation  
3 issues, assistive technology, empowerment issues, support  
4 service providers for the deafblind, obligations of  
5 service providers and employers, educational options, and  
6 current federal and State statutes, regulations, and  
7 policies regarding hearing loss.

8 (2) Cooperate and work with public and private agencies  
9 and local, State, and federal governments to coordinate  
10 programs for persons who are deaf, deafblind, or hard of  
11 hearing.

12 (3) Provide technical assistance, consultation, and  
13 training support to start and enhance existing programs and  
14 services for persons who are deaf, deafblind, or hard of  
15 hearing.

16 (4) Evaluate and monitor State programs delivering  
17 services to deaf, deafblind, and hard of hearing persons to  
18 determine their effectiveness; identify, advocate for, and  
19 promote new services or programs whenever necessary; and  
20 propose solutions ~~make recommendations~~ to public officials  
21 ~~about changes necessary~~ to improve the quality and delivery  
22 of services, programs, and activities and about future  
23 financial support to continue existing programs and  
24 establish new programs.

25 (5) Monitor State funded programs delivering services  
26 to persons who are deaf, deafblind, or hard of hearing to

1 determine the extent that promised and mandated services  
2 are delivered.

3 (6) Review, evaluate, and participate in the  
4 development of, and advocate for, proposed and amended  
5 statutes, rules, regulations, and policies relating to  
6 services, programs, and activities for deaf and hard of  
7 hearing persons and make recommendations on existing  
8 statutes, rules, regulations, and policies to the  
9 Governor, General Assembly, and State agencies.

10 (7) Promote cooperation among State and local agencies  
11 providing educational programs for deaf and hard of hearing  
12 individuals.

13 (8) Establish rules and regulations related to  
14 evaluation, certification, licensure, and training  
15 standards of interpreters for deaf and hard of hearing  
16 persons.

17 (9) Receive, coordinate, and monitor complaints filed  
18 with the Commission of alleged violations of the rights of  
19 deaf, deafblind, and hard of hearing individuals; contact  
20 appropriate parties involved to obtain additional  
21 information, explain the rights of deaf, deafblind, and  
22 hard of hearing individuals, and attempt to negotiate a  
23 satisfactory resolution of complaints; and refer or assist  
24 with filing of complex cases to the Illinois Attorney  
25 General, the Illinois Department of Human Rights, the  
26 Illinois Human Rights Commission, or to an appropriate

1           federal civil rights enforcement agency.

2           (Source: P.A. 93-647, eff. 6-1-04.)