

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL MEMORANDUM

HB 1049 – SB 1392

March 11, 2013

SUMMARY OF ORIGINAL BILL: Adds suggesting legislation to the appropriate committees of the General Assembly that would be of benefit and improve the lives of the deaf and hard of hearing community to the duties and responsibilities of the Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing.

FISCAL IMPACT OF ORIGINAL BILL:

NOT SIGNIFICANT

SUMMARY OF AMENDMENT (004164): Deletes all language after the enacting clause. Replaces the Tennessee Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing with the Tennessee Council for the Deaf, Deaf-Blind, and Hard of Hearing (the Council) effective July 1, 2013. On behalf of the deaf, deaf-blind, and hard of hearing, the Council has the duty to: act as an advocate and bureau of information; collect facts and statistics and other special studies; provide for the mutual exchange of ideas and information at the national, state, and local levels; encourage the development of programs; cooperate with public and private agencies and all levels of government in promoting coordination of programs; authorize the executive director to prepare a report and needs assessment that will be submitted to the Governor, Lt. Governor, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and organizations serving the deaf, deaf-blind, and hard of hearing.

The Council will be composed of 18 members as follows: the Commissioners of Education, Human Services, Health, Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, and Safety, or their designees; the Assistant Commissioner of Rehabilitation Services or the Assistant Commissioner's designee; a representative of the Tennessee Regulatory Authority; a representative of the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency; the President of Tennessee Association of the Deaf; two deaf consumer representatives appointed by the Governor; a President of a Hearing Loss Association of America Chapter; two hard of hearing consumer representatives appointed by the Governor; the President of the Tennessee Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf; one deaf-blind representative appointed by the Governor from one nomination submitted by the Tennessee Organization of the Deaf-Blind and TN Deaf-Blind Association; the President of Tennessee Hands and Voices; and one minority representative appointed by the Governor nominated by the chapter of the Tennessee Black Deaf Advocates from a list of two nominees.

Members of the Council will receive no compensation for their services other than reimbursement for travel and other expenses incurred in the performance of their official duties. The members of the Council will recommend an Executive Director to the Governor and

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establish the Executive Director's compensation with the approval of the Commissioner of Human Resources. The Executive Director will be reimbursed for travel expenses in accordance with the comprehensive travel regulations as promulgated by the Department of Finance and Administration and approved by the Attorney General and Reporter.

In addition to other enumerated duties on behalf of the deaf, deaf-blind, and hard of hearing, the Executive Director will plan and oversee the establishment of service centers for the deaf, deaf-blind, and hard of hearing to the extent of available funds and with the advice and consent of the Council. The Council is authorized to receive moneys from any source, including federal funds, gifts, grants, and bequests, which must be expended for the purposes designated in this part. The Governor is authorized to designate existing departments of state government, or divisions of state government, to provide statewide services to the deaf, deaf-blind, and hard of hearing.

FISCAL IMPACT OF BILL WITH PROPOSED AMENDMENT:

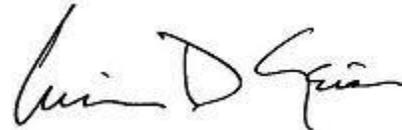
Increase State Expenditures - \$3,200

Assumptions for the bill as amended:

- The Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (TCDHH) is administratively attached to the Department of Human Services. TCDHH coordinates communication, information, public awareness, and advocacy services through six regional community service centers.
- The new Council created by the bill has seven more members than the current council.
- According to the Department of Human Services, the average reimbursement for members traveling to Nashville is \$268.86. The Council meets quarterly in February, May, August, and November.
- It is estimated that three of the seven additional members (the new members that are not state officials or their designees) will travel to Nashville for meetings resulting in an increase in state expenditures of \$3,226 ($\$268.86 \times 4 \text{ meetings} \times 3 \text{ members}$).
- The newly appointed executive director will receive compensation that is similar to the compensation of the current executive director. Any fiscal impact is estimated to be not significant.

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.



Lucian D. Geise, Executive Director

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