**Massachusetts Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing**

**Statewide Advisory Council Meeting**

**January 14, 2021**

**6:15 – 8:15 pm**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Participants:**
Acting Commissioner Tricia Ford, MCDHH

**SAC Members:**
Evan Brunell
Zinma Camelio
Brock Cordeiro
Stephanie Hakulin
Barbara Johnson
Leah McGaughey
Ellen Perkins
Linda Sakin
Lori Seidman
Kerry Thompson

**Attendees from Community:**
Brennan Bulger, Bristol County Sheriff’s Office, Canine Officer
Michelle Cline, NAD
Diane Crouse, MCDHH
David Del Pizzo, MCDHH
Karin Eddy, MCDHH
Trudy Gilbert, MCDHH
Amea Hollingsworth-Hammonds
Kristin Johnson, MCDHH
Carol Menton, MCDHH
Jon O’Dell, MCDHH
Elana Pontecorvo
Zoe RajBhandary, MCDHH
Shannon Silvestri, MCDHH
Sharna Small-Borsellino
Ivy Velez, DDS
Aurora Wilber, MCDHH

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| **Agenda Topic** | **Discussion** | **Follow up/Person Responsible** |
| Welcome  | * Communication Procedures
* Introductions
* Review of Agenda
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| Review of Minutes from December 10, 2020 | Question: biographies of SAC members; collection by Michelle Motta Dardeno.  | Approved |
| Legislative Task Force Report | * The [192nd General Court](https://malegislature.gov/) session began on January 6th.
* Deadline for filing legislation is February 19.
* Now is the time for filing and sponsorship of bills.
* Tracking will be dormant until Feb. 19.
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| Commissioner’s Report | * Acting Commissioner Ford attended the January 10th MSAD meeting. Updates:
1. Roll-out, COVID Vaccine: Department of Health (DPH) will be producing a vlog on the vaccine (similar to their flu shot information.) MCDHH is working with the COVID Command Center for interpreters receiving vaccination during phase 1/phase 2. This would be for MCDHH staff or Freelance interpreters working at on-site medical appointments, in congregate care settings or in group homes. Many hospitals are proactively offering vaccinations to on-site interpreters that work in their facilities.
2. Remote interpreting for Governor Press Conferences is under discussion. Since March, the Governor and Mayor of Boston have held over 200 press conferences.
3. Budget FY21 has been approved. With funding due to savings from vacancies, the Victim Services Program (VSP) Acting Director will continue until the end of June. The focus will continue on fraud, romantic scams and elder abuse. The goal is for a Statewide Coordinator for VSP to be funded in FY22.
4. Veteran’s Services: MCDHH is collaborating with Secretary Poppe efor training Veteran Services Organizations (VSO.) The MCDHH CATTS Department is working on information sheets, connections for Case Management and/or VSP, CART/interpreter requests, Assistive Technology, etc. [*The Modern Guide for Hearing Loss*](https://www.mass.gov/modern-guide-to-hearing-loss) will be printed for VSOs.
5. Vlogs: 15 vlogs have been created since September by MCDHH and sister agencies. VSP is working on a series on fraud, stalking, Domestic Violence and trauma. MCDHH is in collaboration with MassRID for interpreter training modules for working with nurses administering rape kits.
6. Press Conferences: four workshops are being offered to expand the pool of qualified interpreters. The second workshop will be held on Jan. 16. 41 interpreters have registered for the trainings.
7. MCDHH is expanding their communications campaign to include messaging through Constant Contact. Interested community members can sign up for [updates](https://www.mass.gov/forms/sign-up-for-mcdhh-announcements). Topics of interest will be job announcements, SAC meeting information, community announcements, etc. MCDHH also regularly posts on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/MCDHH.MA) and [Twitter](https://twitter.com/home).
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| Presentation: Communication, Access, Technology and Training Services (CATTS: Jon O’Dell and Zoe RajBhandary | * CATTS Department Staff: Jon O’Dell (full-time) and Zoe RajBhandary (part-time.)
* Department activities:
1. Trainings by request/invitation. These include Federal, State and public agencies. Also, schools and universities, local and State Police, municipal government, Elder Services, businesses and employers.
2. Technical assistance. Providing resources, books, articles, fact sheets, guides, etc. One achievement includes [*The Modern Guide for Hearing Loss*](https://www.mass.gov/modern-guide-to-hearing-loss)*.* The department offers an understanding of new technologies on offer and assist with determining best solutions for a situation. This was especially helpful for community members and MCDHH staff pivoting to remote work at the beginning of the COVID pandemic.
3. Vlogs: currently MCDHH is developing a chargeback mechanism for MCDHH involvement in sister agencies vlog production. Google auto caption often requires manual corrections. Interpreter often works remotely and writes the transcript. Voice over audio is used to add to the original video.
4. Information and referral: answering emails with general information requests can often lead to impacting a consumers’ life and ability to continue functioning in their job.
5. [Visor Card](https://www.mass.gov/service-details/mcdhh-visor-card): 2019 roll-out with a target audience of law enforcement professionals. Over 12,500 have been distributed within MA; 1300 to State Police for their cruisers and 6200 to individual police departments. This led to opportunities to train State Police recruits in 2019, 2020 and hopefully 2021. Also, the Municipal Police Training Committee (MPTC) have invited CATTS to train at their five state-wide academies. This training will focus on a variety of topics and situations encountered by community members and police officers.
6. [COVID Card](https://www.mass.gov/service-details/covid-19-card): used widely within MA, other states and internationally. Thanks to Steward Health the card has been translated to a number of different languages. Card is also available in large print and for screen readers. The card is not meant to replace communication access, but rather to provide a first step in connection.
 | Presentation sent along with meeting minutes.*Modern Guide* will be sent to Mass Library Association and Mass Councils on Aging.Book will be converted to a Kindle friendly version. |
| Presentation: [Department of Elementary and Secondary Education](https://www.doe.mass.edu/) (DESE)Aurora Wilber, Communications Liaison | * Work, through a Memo of Understanding (MOU) was established at MCDHH’s inception in 1985/1986 for improving the education system for children, teachers and interpreters.
* Currently the MCDHH/DESE Steering Committee with MCDHH representation: MCDHH Commissioner, Case Management, Children’s Specialists.
* Committee is comprised of representatives from: teacher training programs in MA, Deaf school programs, collaboratives, Children’s Hospital D/HOH Program, Educational Interpreters and community members.
* The focus is on DESE guidance, best practices and DESE’s oversight of education regulations. Priorities include teacher preparation for Teachers of the Deaf, Educational Interpreters qualifications, assessing ASL skills of Teachers of the Deaf, and collaboration with families and stakeholders.
* DESE – ongoing meetings to ensure that Deaf/HH students are engaged and to provide guidance and support for students and interpreters for remote learning.  [Special education guidance](https://www.doe.mass.edu/covid19/sped.html).
* In addition, MCDHH partnered with community members including the Federation for Children with Special Needs and the Special Education Advocacy Network to provide support and guidance to families and create linkages to the MCDHH children’s specialists to improve special education instruction for children during the pandemic. Several statewide webinars were scheduled which resulted in the resources listed below:

<https://spanmass.org/covid-19.html>* Subcommittees include:
1. Early Childhood Education Task Force whose focus has been developing a Best Practices in Early Childhood Transition document.
2. Deaf Education Teacher Shortage to identify the barriers and recommend supports for teacher training and licensure.
3. Educational Interpreters to offer networking, supports and training opportunities; especially during remote working conditions.
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| Presentation: Aurora Wilber, Communications Liaison | * Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EHS) has the priority for continued and increased communication to be released in accessible formats for all constituents in MA.
* Governor campaigns: [GetBackMass](https://www.mass.gov/getback) and [StopCOVID](https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=434334580929189) (Your Actions have Consequences.)
* Upcoming releases:
1. DPH will be re-releasing their Flu information (including ASL versions.)
2. DPH will have a series on the COVID vaccine.
3. Massachusetts Commission for the Blind (MCB) focusing on DeafBlind services and identifying their supports.
4. Department of Transition Assistance (DTA) for COVID related benefits.
5. Partners in Health: Contact Tracing.
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| New Business/Announcements  | Jan. 18: Martin Luther King, Jr. Day: “Darkness does not drive out darkness; only light can do that. Then hate does not drive out hate; only love can do that.” * Jan. 23: ALDA Boston, virtual meeting.
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| Next SAC Meeting | * February 11, 2021, 6:15 – 8:15. Topic: MCDHH Strategic Goals.
* SAC “Bills of Interest” are at the end of these minutes (pg. 7 – 13.)
 | Any interested community members wanting SAC information can request to join the distribution list. Please email: ami.hanigan@mass.gov.SAC members with requests for additions to the future agendas should share these additions with ami.hanigan@mass.gov. |

**Legislation of Interest to the Constituents of**

**the**

**Statewide Advisory Council**

**to the**

**Massachusetts Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing**

**191st General Court (2019 – 2020)**

***Updated 01/06/2021
@ approximately 1:10 PM***

31 Bills currently tracking

1. **S.198: Licensure of interpreters and oral transliterators** (Senator [James Welch](https://malegislature.gov/Legislators/Profile/JTW0/191))

<https://malegislature.gov/Bills/191/S198>

Status: Referred to the [Joint Committee on Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure](https://malegislature.gov/Committees/Detail/J17)

***Latest Activity: On 2/13/2020 the bill accompanied a study order, see*** [***S.2534***](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/191/S2534)

Purpose: Requires all interpreters and oral transliterators serving the Deaf to be licensed by MCDHH

1. **S.197: Protects consumers of sign language and oral interpretation** (Senator [James Welch](https://malegislature.gov/Legislators/Profile/JTW0/191))

<https://malegislature.gov/Bills/191/S197>

Status: Referred to the [Joint Committee on Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure](https://malegislature.gov/Committees/Detail/J17)
***Latest Activity: On 5/7/2020 the bill was reported favorably by the Joint Committee on Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure and referred to the Senate Committee on Ways and Means.***

Purpose: Clarifies the definition of “qualified interpreter”

1. **S.305: Language Readiness for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children entering Kindergarten** (Senator [Eric Lesser](https://malegislature.gov/Legislators/Profile/EPL0/191))

<https://malegislature.gov/Bills/191/S305>
Status: Referred to the [Joint Committee on Education](https://malegislature.gov/Committees/Detail/J14/191)

***Latest Activity: On 2/18/2020 the bill accompanied a study order, see*** [***S.2538***](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/191/S2538)

Purpose: Requires the Department of Public Health and Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to establish language development milestones for Deaf and hard of hearing children from birth to age 5, provide parents with resources and track development data

1. **H.3550: Readiness for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children entering Kindergarten** (Representative [Brian Ashe](https://malegislature.gov/Legislators/Profile/BMA1/191))

<https://malegislature.gov/Bills/191/H3550>

Status: Referred to the [Joint Committee on Education](https://malegislature.gov/Committees/Detail/J14/191)

***Latest Activity: On 12/03/2020 Accompanied a study order, see*** [***H.5159***](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/191/H5159)

Purpose: Requires the Department of Public Health and Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to establish language development milestones for Deaf and hard of hearing children from birth to age 5, provide parents with resources and track development data

1. **S.1824: Removing the term hearing impaired from the General Laws** (Senator [Cynthia Stone Creem](https://malegislature.gov/Legislators/Profile/CSC0/191))

<https://malegislature.gov/Bills/191/S1824>

Status: Referred favorably to the [***Senate Committee on Rules***](https://malegislature.gov/Committees/Detail/S29/191)

***Latest Activity: On 01/06/2020 the bill was reported favorably by committee and referred to the committee on*** [***Senate Rules***](https://malegislature.gov/Committees/Detail/S29/191)

Purpose: Would replace the term “hearing impaired” with “deaf or hard of hearing” in the General Laws

1. **S.597: Providing coverage for hearing aids** (Senator [Adam Hinds](https://malegislature.gov/Legislators/Profile/AGH0/191))

<https://malegislature.gov/Bills/191/S597>

Status: Referred to the [Joint Committee on Financial Services](https://malegislature.gov/Committees/Detail/J11)

***Latest Activity: On 2/18/2020 the bill accompanied a study order, see*** [***S.2543***](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/191/S2543)

Purpose: Coverage for the cost of 1 hearing aid per hearing-impaired ear up to $500 and 80 percent coverage of the next $1,500 for each hearing aid, every 36 months

1. **S.1738: Tax credit for the purchase of hearing aids** (Senator [Patrick O’Connor](https://malegislature.gov/Legislators/Profile/PMO/191))

<https://malegislature.gov/Bills/191/S1738>

Status: Referred to the [Joint Committee on Revenue](https://malegislature.gov/Committees/Detail/J26)
***Latest Activity: On 2/27/2020 the bill was reported favorably by committee and referred to the committee on*** [***House Ways and Means***](https://malegislature.gov/Committees/Detail/H34/191)

Purpose: Up to $1500 in tax credits for the purchase of hearing aids by people aged 55 or above. Allowed once every four years

1. **S.1643: Tax abatement for Deaf residents** (Senator [Diana DiZoglio](https://malegislature.gov/Legislators/Profile/D_D0/191))

<https://malegislature.gov/Bills/191/S1643>

Status: Referred to the [Joint Committee on Revenue](https://malegislature.gov/Committees/Detail/J26)
***Latest Activity: On 2/20/2020 the bill accompanied a study order, see*** [***S.2549***](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/191/S2549)

Purpose: Allows a tax abatement for Deaf homeowners

1. **S.540: Providing coverage for hearing aids for persons with sensory impairedness** (Senator [Joseph Boncore](https://malegislature.gov/Legislators/Profile/JAB0/191)\*)

<https://malegislature.gov/Bills/191/S540>

Status: Referred to the [Joint Committee on Financial Services](https://malegislature.gov/Committees/Detail/J11)

***Latest Activity: On 2/18/2020 the bill accompanied a study order, see*** [***S.2543***](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/191/S2543)

Purpose: Coverage for the cost of 1 hearing aid per hearing-impaired ear up to $500 and 80 percent coverage of the next $1,500 for each hearing aid, every 24 months. Would apply to people covered under the Group Insurance Commission who are also blind or have a severe vision loss

1. **S.683: Medicare for all in Massachusetts** (Senator [James Eldridge](https://malegislature.gov/Legislators/Profile/JBE0/191))

<https://malegislature.gov/Bills/191/S683>

Status: Referred to the [Joint Committee on Health Care Financing](https://malegislature.gov/Committees/Detail/J24)
***Latest Activity: On 7/23/2020 the Senate Ought NOT to pass (under Joint Rule 10) and placed in the Orders of the Day for the next session***Purpose: Would require the coverage of hearing aids, also called single payer

1. **H.1194: Medicare for all in Massachusetts** Representatives [Lindsay Sabadosa](https://malegislature.gov/Legislators/Profile/L_S1/191) & [Denise Garlick](https://malegislature.gov/Legislators/Profile/DCG1/191))

<https://malegislature.gov/Bills/191/H1194>

Status: Referred to the [Joint Committee on Health Care Financing](https://malegislature.gov/Committees/Detail/J24)

***Latest Activity: On 6/22/2020 the House - Reporting date extended to Thursday December 31, 2020, pending concurrence***Purpose: Would require the coverage of hearing aids, also called single payer

1. **H.276: Increased access to hearing aids** (Representative [James Kelcourse](https://malegislature.gov/Legislators/Profile/JMK1/191))

<https://malegislature.gov/Bills/191/H276>

Status: Referred to the [Joint Committee on Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure](https://malegislature.gov/Committees/Detail/J17)

***Latest Activity: On 01/21/2020 the bill accompanied a new draft, see*** [***H.4298***](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/191/H4298)

Purpose: Preventing or regulating financial interest in hearing aid companies by physician prescribing hearing aids; requiring full disclosure of fees for hearing aids and associated services Allows ENTs to dispense hearing aids

1. **H.236: Increased access to hearing aids** (Representative [Carole Fiola](https://malegislature.gov/Legislators/Profile/CAF1/191))

<https://malegislature.gov/Bills/191/H236>

Status: Referred to the [Joint Committee on Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure](https://malegislature.gov/Committees/Detail/J17)

***Latest Activity: On 01/21/2020 the bill accompanied a new draft, see*** [***H.4298***](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/191/H4298)Purpose: Preventing or regulating financial interest in hearing aid companies by physician prescribing hearing aids; requiring full disclosure of fees for hearing aids and associated services Allows ENTs to dispense hearing aids

1. **S.151: Increased access to hearing aids** (Senator [Adam Hinds](https://malegislature.gov/Legislators/Profile/AGH0/191))

<https://malegislature.gov/Bills/191/S151>

Status: Referred to the [Joint Committee on Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure](https://malegislature.gov/Committees/Detail/J17)

***Latest Activity: On 01/21/2020 the bill accompanied a new draft, see*** [***H.4298***](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/191/H4298)

Purpose: Preventing or regulating financial interest in hearing aid companies by physician prescribing hearing aids; requiring full disclosure of fees for hearing aids and associated services Allows ENTs to dispense hearing aids

1. **S.139: Increased access to hearing aids** (Senator [Diana DiZoglio](https://malegislature.gov/Legislators/Profile/D_D0/191))

[https://malegislaturegov/Bills/191/S139](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/191/S139)

Status: Referred to the [Joint Committee on Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure](https://malegislature.gov/Committees/Detail/J17)

***Latest Activity: On 01/21/2020 the bill accompanied a new draft, see*** [***H.4298***](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/191/H4298)

Purpose: Preventing or regulating financial interest in hearing aid companies by physician prescribing hearing aids; requiring full disclosure of fees for hearing aids and associated services Allows ENTs to dispense hearing aids

1. **H.142: Creating a means for tracking the unmet need of individuals with developmental disabilities in Massachusetts** (Representative [Jason Lewis](https://malegislature.gov/Legislators/Profile/JPL1/191))

<https://malegislature.gov/Bills/191/H142>

Status: Referred to the [Joint Committee on Children, Families, and Persons with Disabilities](https://malegislature.gov/Committees/Detail/J13)
***Latest Activity: On 03/05/2020 the bill accompanied a new draft, see*** [***H.4496***](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/191/H4496)

Purpose: Establishing a central electronic database using data from MCDHH among others This database would track the unmet service needs of individuals with developmental disabilities in MA

1. **H.2855: Providing hearing and visual aids to deaf and blind viewers** (Representative [Ann-Margaret Ferrante](https://malegislature.gov/Legislators/Profile/AMF1/191))

<https://malegislature.gov/Bills/191/H2855>

Status: Referred to the [Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy](https://malegislature.gov/Committees/Detail/J37)

***Latest Activity: On 2/10/2020 the bill accompanied a study order, see*** [***H.4405***](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/191/h4405)

Purpose: Would require community antenna television stations to provide captions for the Deaf and narration for the blind

1. **H.1487: Prohibiting discrimination against adults with disabilities in family and juvenile court proceedings** (Representative [Kay Khan](https://malegislature.gov/Legislators/Profile/K_K1/191))

<https://malegislature.gov/Bills/191/H1487>

Status: Referred to the [Joint Committee on the Judiciary](https://malegislature.gov/Committees/Detail/J19)

***Latest Activity: On 11/25/2020 in the House, Accompanied a study order, see*** [***H.5148***](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/191/H5148)

Purpose: Prohibiting discrimination on the basis of disability in family/juvenile court proceedings, absent a specific written finding

1. **S.983: Prohibiting discrimination against adults with disabilities in family and juvenile court proceedings** (Senator[Joan Lovely](https://malegislature.gov/Legislators/Profile/JBL0/191))

<https://malegislature.gov/Bills/191/S983>

Status: Referred to the [Joint Committee on the Judiciary](https://malegislature.gov/Committees/Detail/J19)
***Latest Activity: On 11/16/2020 in the House, Accompanied a study order, see*** [***S.2953***](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/191/S2953)

Purpose: Prohibiting discrimination on the basis of disability in family/juvenile court proceedings, absent a specific written finding

1. **H.2057: American Sign Language Training** (Representative [Shawn Dooley](https://malegislature.gov/Legislators/Profile/S_D1/191))

<https://malegislature.gov/Bills/191/H2057>

Status: Referred to the [Joint Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security](https://malegislature.gov/Committees/Detail/J22)

***Latest Activity: On 02/24/2020 the bill was reported favorably by committee and referred to the committee on*** [***House Ways and Means***](https://malegislature.gov/Committees/Detail/H34/191)

Purpose: Establishment of training and on-going education courses that allow for basic understanding of American Sign Language by all levels of fire service personnel

1. **H.2954: Providing improved access to taxicabs for persons with disabilities** (Representative [Bruce Ayers](https://malegislature.gov/Legislators/Profile/BJA1/191))

<https://malegislature.gov/Bills/191/H2954>

Status: Referred to the [Joint Committee on Transportation](https://malegislature.gov/Committees/Detail/J27)

***Latest Activity: On 02/18/2020 the bill was reported favorably by committee and referred to the committee on*** [***House Ways and Means***](https://malegislature.gov/Committees/Detail/H34/191)

Purpose: Requiring accessible taxicabs to include an assistive listening system if an intercom, video, or audio system is installed

1. **S.1810: An Act relative to employment of persons with disabilities on state contracts** (Senator[Nick Collins](https://malegislature.gov/Legislators/Profile/N_C0/191))

<https://malegislature.gov/Bills/191/S1810>

Status: Referred to the [Senate Committee on Ways and Means](https://malegislature.gov/Committees/Detail/S30/191)

***Latest Activity: On 12/04/2019 the bill accompanied by*** [***H.2671***](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/191/H2671) ***& Bill reported favorably by committee and referred to the committee on*** [***Senate Ways and Means***](https://malegislature.gov/Committees/Detail/S30)Purpose: Would require that companies receiving state contracts employ at least 10% of people with disabilities on that contract

1. **H.929: An Act requiring reimbursement for the costs of providing competent interpreter services** (Senator[Gerard Cassidy](https://malegislature.gov/Legislators/Profile/G_C2/191))

<https://malegislature.gov/Bills/191/H929>

Status: Referred to the [Joint Committee on Financial Services](https://malegislature.gov/Committees/Detail/J11)
***Latest Activity: On 12/01/2020* in the House, Accompanied a study order, see** [**H.5160**](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/191/H5160)Purpose: Would require that the costs of providing competent interpreter services through sign and spoken languages by licensed facilities shall be recognized and separately reimbursed by the division and its contracted health insurers, health plans, health maintenance organizations, behavioral health management firms and third party contractors under contract to a division managed care organization or primary care clinician program.

1. **S.922: An Act relative to juvenile violence** (Senator [Diana DiZoglio](https://malegislature.gov/Legislators/Profile/D_D0/191)\*)

<https://malegislature.gov/Bills/191/S922>

Status: Referred to the [Joint Committee on the Judiciary](https://malegislature.gov/Committees/Detail/J19)

***Latest Activity: On 02/03/2020 the bill accompanied a study order, see***[***S.2496***](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/191/S2496)

Purpose: In part, it would “In the case of a blind or deaf/blind or a student with developmental and communication challenges, they shall have one free pull on the door to indicate that the door to the lavatory stall is either in use or not. If the aforementioned developmentally, or blind, or deaf/blind or communication disabled student pulls the door and finds that he/she cannot open the lavatory stall, said lavatory stall shall be presumed to be ‘occupied,’ by another student or person and that said challenged student must go to his/her care staff, who shall in turn, depending on the urgency of the challenged student needing a lavatory, allow for the challenged student to use their designated lavatory, so long as both the student and the caretaker is of the same gender.”

1. **H.2671: An Act relative to the employment of persons with disabilities on state contracts** (Representative[David Biele](https://malegislature.gov/Legislators/Profile/D_B1/191) & Representative [Daniel Hunt](https://malegislature.gov/Legislators/Profile/djh1/191))

<https://malegislature.gov/Bills/191/H2671>

Status: Referred to the [Joint Committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight](https://malegislature.gov/Committees/Detail/J25)
***Latest Activity: On 12/4/2019 the bill accompanied*** [***S.1810***](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/191/S1810)

Purpose: Would require that companies receiving state contracts employ at least 10% of people with disabilities on that contract

1. **H.4298: Increased access to hearing aids** (Joint Committee on Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure) New draft of [S.139](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/191/S139), [S.151](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/191/S151), [H.236](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/191/H236) and [H.276](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/191/H276)

<https://malegislature.gov/Bills/191/H4298>
Status: Referred to the [Joint Committee on Health Care Financing](https://malegislature.gov/Committees/Detail/J24/191)
***Latest Activity: On 08/20/2020 the House - Read second and ordered to a third reading***Purpose: Preventing or regulating financial interest in hearing aid companies by physician prescribing hearing aids; requiring full disclosure of fees for hearing aids and associated services Allows ENTs to dispense hearing aids

1. **H.4496: An Act establishing a permanent Commission on the Status of Persons with Disabilities** ([Joint Committee on Children, Families, and Persons with Disabilities](https://malegislature.gov/Committees/Detail/J13)) New draft of [H88](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/191/H88), [H100](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/191/H100), [H142](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/191/H142), [H161](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/191/H161) and [H3752](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/191/H3752)

<https://malegislature.gov/Bills/191/H4496>

Status: Referred to the [Joint Committee on Children, Families, and Persons with Disabilities](https://malegislature.gov/Committees/Detail/J13)
***Latest Activity: On 03/05/2020 bill reported favorably by committee and referred to the committee on*** [***House Ways and Means***](https://malegislature.gov/Committees/Detail/H34/191)

Purpose: Creating a new permanent Commission on the Status of Persons with Disabilities

1. **H.5159: Study Order - Education Matters** ([Joint Committee on Education](https://malegislature.gov/Committees/Detail/J14/191)) New draft of [H.3550](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/191/H3550) & others
<https://malegislature.gov/Bills/191/H5159>
Status: Referred to the Referred to [House Committee on Rules](https://malegislature.gov/Committees/Detail/H33/191)
***Latest Activity: On 12/03/2020 Discharged to the committee on*** [***House Rules***](https://malegislature.gov/Committees/Detail/H33/191)
2. **H.5148: Study Order - Judiciary Matters** ([Joint Committee on the Judiciary](https://malegislature.gov/Committees/Detail/J19/191)) New draft of [H.1487](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/191/H1487) & others
<https://malegislature.gov/Bills/191/H5148>
Status: Referred to the Referred to [House Committee on Rules](https://malegislature.gov/Committees/Detail/H33/191)
***Latest Activity: On 11/25/2020 Discharged to the committee on*** [***House Rules***](https://malegislature.gov/Committees/Detail/H33/191)
3. [**S.2953**](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/191/S2953)**: Order relative to authorizing the joint committee on the Judiciary to make an investigation and study of certain current Senate documents relative to judiciary issues** ([Joint Committee on the Judiciary](https://malegislature.gov/Committees/Detail/J19/191)) New draft of [S.983](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/191/S983) & others
<https://malegislature.gov/Bills/191/S2953>
Status: Referred to the Referred to [Senate Committee on Rules](https://malegislature.gov/Committees/Detail/S29/191)
***Latest Activity: On 11/19/2020 Discharged to the committee on*** [***Senate Rules***](https://malegislature.gov/Committees/Detail/S29/191)
4. **H.5160: Study Order - payments and insurance** ([Joint Committee on Financial Services](https://malegislature.gov/Committees/Detail/J11/191)) New draft of  [H.929](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/191/H929) & others
<https://malegislature.gov/Bills/191/H5160>
Status: Referred to the Referred to [House Committee on Rules](https://malegislature.gov/Committees/Detail/H33/191)
***Latest Activity: On 12/01/2020 Discharged to the committee on*** [***House Rules***](https://malegislature.gov/Committees/Detail/H33/191)
Editor’s note: H: stands for the House and S: for the Senate

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In parentheses ( ) is the bill’s sponsor. \* denotes that the presenter is not a sponsor of this legislation

For more information or to share your perspective about a bill of interest, please follow up and contact your legislator and/or the sponsor of the bill Contact information can be found at [www.malegislature.gov](https://www.malegislature.gov)

For more information on the process of how bills are filed and then become law:

<https://malegislature.gov/Content/Documents/HowAnIdeaBecomesLaw/HowAnIdeaBecomesLaw.pdf>

*Many thanks go to the Statewide Advisory Council which meets to discuss the nature of these bills, State House Day and other initiatives as set forth by MCDHH and related collaborations. For information, please contact SAC Member Brock N. Cordeiro at* *BNCordeiro@comcast.net**.*