Statewide Advisory Council

November 12, 2020

6:15 - 8:15 pm

**Participants:**

Acting Commissioner Tricia Ford

**SAC Members:**

Kristin Accetta

Evan Brunnell

Zinma Camelia

Brock Cordeiro

Michelle Motta Dardeno, SAC Chair

Stephanie Hakulin

Barbara Johnson

Leah McGaughey

Ellen Perkins

Linda Sakin

Lori Seidman

Kerry Thompson

**Attendees from Community:**

Suzann Bedrosian

Alyssa Brady

Officer Brennan Bulger, Bristol County Sheriff's Office K-9 Officer

Janice Cagan-Teuber, MCDHH

Diane Crouse, MCDHH

Carla Del Pizzo

Karin Eddy, MCDHH

Kellynette Gomez

Sharon Harrison, MCDHH

Josh Mendelsohn, MRC

Sue Philip

Shannon Silvestri, MCDHH

Ivy Velez, DDS

BJ Wood, MSAD

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| **Agenda Topic** | **Discussion** | **Follow up/Person Responsible** |
| Welcome  | * Communication Procedures: speakers and interpreters will be in the spotlight. Closed Captioning is also available. Chat items will be sent directly to Hana Hanigan. Raise hand to be acknowledged.
* Introductions: participant list available in Zoom.
* Goal is for respect of member and community diversity.
* Review of Agenda: presenters will have 15 minutes for their topics.
 | Kerry Thompson will provide a document with helpful Zoom tips. |
| Review of Minutes from October 15, 2020 |  | Approved |
| Chairperson’s Report | * A search for a new Commissioner is underway led by the Executive Office for Health and Human Services. Search is nationwide.

 | Topic is confidential; MCDHH staff are receiving opportunities to heal and move forward.Position was posted on Nov 2nd by the Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services. Applications will be submitted through MassCareers. MassCareers will flag internal candidates.Tricia will connect with Secretary Sudders on the EHS plan for interviews. Process includes a high-level background check which can take 30 – 60 days. |
| Commissioner’s Report: Concerns from Nov. 5th MSAD Town Forum | * MCDHH is working to reinstate a workgroup with the Department of Children and Families (DCF.) This will include cross training of agency staff, collaboration for inter-agency support, recruitment of foster and/or adoptive families, hiring DCF Case Managers with qualifications working with Deaf or Hard of Hearing consumers.
* MCDHH Referral Dept. has reported a 98% fill rate for DeafBlind interpreting. MCDHH and Mass. Commission for the Blind (MCB) will be scheduling a meeting for both agency’s Case Managers to discuss gaps in services and resolutions.
* Dept. of Public Health (DPH’s) healthcare survey has a distribution plan for connecting with the Deaf and Hard of Hearing population. IL Centers will be assisting with the survey.
* MCDHH will continue working with Dept. of Developmental Services (DDS) on consumer concerns.
* Upcoming Vlogs: Recovery and Substance Use and announcing a RFR: Vlog Production. Under discussion: Case Management vlogs detailing the responsibilities of MCDHH Adult Case Managers and Children’s Specialists.
* MCDHH Case Managers will be requested to work with ViAbility staff in Western MA to increase community outreach.
* MCDHH website will be updated to include COVID19 ASL videos produced by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention.
* For a future SAC meeting, Communication Access Training and Technology Services (CATTS) staff member Jon O’Dell will be providing a presentation to update members on collaboration with the Executive Office of Elder Affairs (EOEA.)
* MCDHH is working with the Dept. of Veteran’s Services and SAC member Zinma Camelio to train Veteran Services Officers (VSO) and potentially pursue funding to reprint the *Modern Guide for Hearing Loss.* CATTS trainings will be provided to VSOs for available Assistive Technology.
 |  |
| Presentation: Josh Mendelsohn, MRC Legal Counsel | * MCDHH staff are covered by the Conflict of Interest (COI) Law in order to have roles maintained without any financial interest or confidentiality.
* Members of the Statewide Advisory Council (SAC) are considered “special employees” and have been appointed to work with MCDHH and comply with certain duties and obligations.
* COI prohibits MCDHH employees from also serving on the SAC; the acceptance of bribes, working as a contractor without disclosing that relationship. COI covers any eventuality that a staff member or SAC member would misuse their position to benefit themselves or others.
* Information disclosed within a SAC meeting is considered public information which can, and should, be shared with the community groups members represent.
 | Information available on pages 8 – 12.Community members interested in becoming SAC members can connect with Hana Hanigan, ami.hanigan@mass.gov to receive a nomination form. |
| Presentation: Shannon Silvestri, Acting Program Director, Victim Services Program (VSP) | * Previously worked as the MCDHH Hearing Loss Peer Support Coordinator in 2014 after the Marathon bombings.
* VSP provides services for any victims of crime who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing. These crimes include but are not limited to: Domestic violence/ partner violence, sexual assault, sex trafficking, child abuse, elder abuse, fraud, identity theft. And terrorism, pertaining to the Marathon Bombing.
* Program will be ending on Jan. 31, 2021 due to a lack of funding.
* VSP currently follows a trauma informed approach and practice a wrap-around model of service delivery.
* Referrals are provided for physical, social, psychological, legal, and financial resources and programs.
* Some examples of services include: safety planning, help with applications for aid or compensation, follow-up on referrals, coordination of communication access, emotional support, etc.
* Accomplishments include: connecting with Marathon bombing survivors to access funds. Worked across 17 crime categories, conducted seven court information sessions, served 91 victims across MA. Development of four training modules regarding sexual abuse, sexual violence and interpreting. Partners with a cultural broker, from Our Deaf Survivors Center (ODSC) to assist with service provision.
* Vlogs in process are related to Domestic Violence Awareness Month and crime victim topics.
* Recommendations before program conclusion: identify uses of the four developed modules for interpreters to earn CEUs. Potential crime subject matters for coverage through a vlog. Identification of service gaps and create a Statewide Victim Services Coordinator position to expand outreach and education, broaden the scope of services to include regional learning collaboratives, etc.

  | PowerPoint presentation attached.Suggestions/input can be sent to: shannon.silvestri@mass.govTricia Ford will connect with Jon O’Dell for potential funding potential from the 911 Commission. Previously, 911 Commission passed legislation for surcharges to telephone service to cover access for Deaf or Hard of Hearing consumers. |
| Legislative Task Force | * Activity is limited; only action is for one bill’s deadline was extended. Deadline for the 191st General Court is Jan. 5, 2021. New bills will then need to be re-filed or put forward on Jan. 6, 2021.
* House budget released; MCDHH budget is line item 4125-01-00. Both Governor’s budget and the House Ways and Means committee recommended a little over 6 million in funding.
 | Bills of Interest document available pages 13 – 21. |
| SAC Committee Demographics | * Between 12 – 20 members are allowed on the SAC.
* Currently: representatives include three individuals who use ASL, hard of hearing representatives, cochlear implant users, DeafBlind participants and parents.
* Diversity in membership is the goal.
* Outdated list of SAC members is available at: <https://appointments.state.ma.us/BoardDetail.aspx?brdID=161103>
 | 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.Recommendation: vlog release on for SAC recruitment. |
| Announcements | * November 16, Disability Policy Consortium open meeting.
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| Next SAC Meeting | * December 10, 2020. Agenda will include presentations from the Statewide Coordinator for Substance Use and Recovery, a Case Management Children’s Specialist and an update from Aurora Wilber regarding the Dept. of Elementary and Secondary Education.
* Recommended topic for consideration: representative from a Biotech company to discuss their research on pharmaceutical treatments for hearing loss and medical intervention on gene therapy.
 | Michelle will see if there is any research/updates into curing or abating tinnitus. |

# **SAC Members, Conflicts of Interest Law,** **and the Open Meeting Law**

**Prepared by the Legal Office, October 2020**

# **Conflict of Interest, M.G.L. c. 268A, Appointed Members of State Advisory Councils**

**As an appointed SAC member, are you a "special state employee" for purposes of the conflict of interest law?**

You are a "special state employee" under the conflict of interest law if you are serving in a state agency in a position for which no compensation is provided.

*Example.* You are an advisory council member of a state agency. You are not paid, but may be reimbursed for expenses. You are a special state employee.

**How does the conflict of interest law apply to special state employees?**

As a special state employee, you are subject to all the provisions in the conflict of interest law that apply to "state employees" except where the statute specifically sets out less restrictive provisions for special state employees.

Two provisions of the conflict of interest law, section 4 and section 7, apply less restrictively to special state employees. Section 4 restricts the extent to which a state employee may engage in activities on behalf of other people and organizations in matters in which the state has an interest. Section 7 prohibits state employees from having a financial interest in a state contract, unless an exemption applies. Most state board or commission members volunteer their time or receive nominal stipends. In recognition of the need to avoid unduly restricting the ability of board and commission members to earn a living while serving the state, sections 4 and 7 provide more options for special state employees.

**Section 4: Acting for Others in State Matters**

Section 4 is intended to prevent divided loyalties between responsibilities as a state employee and private interests. Generally, the restrictions in section 4 for special state employees will limit the ability to work for or represent other people and organizations in connection with particular matters before the state council or commission on which they serve, but will not prevent such work before other state agencies.

If you have a compensated non-public position, section 4 will not prohibit you from receiving your usual compensation during time spent serving in an uncompensated state position.

**Section 7: Financial Interest in a State Contract**

Section 7 prohibits a state employee from having a financial interest in a state contract, unless an exemption applies. This section is intended to prevent "double-dipping" in situations where a state employee has a second, paid arrangement involving the state, such as a job or a financial interest in a contract. It does not apply to any financial interest which consists of the ownership of less than 1 percent of the stock of a corporation.

Special state employees may be eligible for three exemptions from this prohibition:

* If your Council position is uncompensated, you may retain financial interests that you had in state contracts before you began your state service. This includes any appointed, paid state position you held at the time. If you hold such a position, you have to file a disclosure with your appointing authority in that position disclosing that you have been elected or appointed to the uncompensated Council.

* You may use an exemption under section 7(d) to have a financial interest in a state contract if, in your capacity as a Council member, you do not participate in or have official responsibility for any of the activities of the state agency that made the contract. You must file a disclosure with the State Ethics Commission of your financial interest in the contract.

* If neither of those exemptions covers a specific situation, then you may seek an exemption from the Governor under section 7(e). In that situation, you must file a disclosure with the State Ethics Commission of your and your immediate family's financial interest in the contract, along with the written exemption you obtain from the Governor.

**What other provisions of the conflict of interest law apply to special state employees?**

As a special state employee, you are subject to prohibitions that apply to other state employees: the prohibitions on bribes, gifts, participating in matters in which you or those close to you have a financial interest, misuse of your position to benefit yourself or others, and the improper disclosure of confidential information. You must file a written disclosure with your appointing authority if a relationship or affiliation you have with a person or organization would cause a reasonable person to think you could have a conflict of interest while performing your duties as a Council member.

# **The Open Meeting Law (M.G.L. c. 30A §§ 18 – 25)**

“The purpose of the Open Meeting Law is to ensure transparency in the deliberations on which public policy is based. Because the democratic process depends on the public having knowledge about the considerations underlying governmental action, the Open Meeting Law requires, with some exceptions, that meetings of public bodies be open to the public. It also seeks to balance the public's interest in witnessing the deliberations of public officials with the government's need to manage its operations efficiently.”

MCDHH's Statewide Advisory Council (SAC) meetings are covered by the OML when:

1. There is communication between current members of the SAC;
2. The communication constitutes a deliberation (see discussion below);
3. The communication involves a matter within SAC's jurisdiction (any matter of public business on which a quorum of the public body may make a decision or recommendation); and
4. The communication does not fall within an exception (i.e., on-site inspection, executive sessions, others).

**DELIBERATION:** A deliberation is any oral or written communication through any medium, including electronic mail, between or among a quorum (see below) of SAC members on any public business within its jurisdiction. Distribution of an agenda, scheduling, or reports / documents is helpful but generally does not constitute deliberation unless a member expresses an opinion on matters within the body's jurisdiction.

**QUORUM:** The OML defines a quorum as a simple majority of the members of a public body, unless otherwise provided. In a FAQ, the Attorney General's Office (AGO) explains that when there is a vacancy on a public body, a quorum is still measured by the number of members of the public body as established by law or regulation, not by the number of members actually serving on the body.

If a meeting does not have a quorum of members present, the SAC would not be under an obligation to create and retain meeting minutes (see below). However, the SAC would not be able to vote on or take deliberative action. In the absence of a quorum, the SAC may still go over and beyond the intent of the OML by creating and retaining meeting minutes and serving in an advisory capacity.

**CERTIFICATIONS:** Within two weeks of a SAC member's appointment or the taking of the oath of office, whichever occurs later, the member is required to complete a Certificate of Receipt of Open Meeting Law Materials certifying that they have received the Open Meeting Law itself, the AGO's regulations, and the OML Guide, and that they understand the OML requirements as well as the consequences for violating the OML. The certification must be retained where MCDHH maintains its official records. If a Certificate has not yet been completed by a SAC member, the member should complete and submit the Certificate at the earliest opportunity to be considered in compliance with the law.

**MEETING NOTICES:** The SAC is required to provide the public with notice of its meetings at least 48 hours in advance (excluding weekends and holidays). This notice must be posted on MCDHH's website. A copy of the notice must also be sent to the Secretary of State's Regulation Division, and should be forwarded to the Executive Office of Administration and Finance. These notices must contain the date, time, and place of the meeting; and list all topics that the Council reasonably anticipates will be discussed at the meeting. The list of topics must be sufficiently specific to reasonably inform the public of the issues to be discussed at the meeting.

**MEETING MINUTES:** The SAC is required to create and maintain minutes of all meetings. The minutes must be created and approved in a timely manner, and must state the date, time and place of the meeting, a list of the members present or absent, and the decisions made and actions taken including a record of all votes. Minutes must also include the name of any member who participated remotely and the reason for doing so. A summary (but not a transcript) of discussions on each subject must be included. The minutes must include a list (but not actual copies) of documents and other exhibits used at the meeting. These minutes, documents, and exhibits should be retained and stored by MCDHH. MCDHH is not required to post these minutes publicly, but these minutes are public record and may be subject to disclosure under either the Open Meeting Law or the Public Records Law.

**REMOTE PARTICIPATION (as temporarily modified by an Emergency Order as a result of the 2020 Pandemic State of Emergency):** The OML and implementing regulations now allow for remote participation in certain circumstances. The SAC is required to vote, by a simple majority of a quorum of its members, to adopt remote participation. Once adopted, members can participate remotely at any time until the SAC "opts out" of the practice altogether. ~~Remote participation is allowed if the person chairing the meeting determines that one of the following factors makes the member's physical attendance unreasonably difficult: 1) Personal illness; 2) Personal disability; 3) Emergency; 4) Military service; or 5) Geographic distance.~~ Remote participation can be done via telephone, internet, audio / video conferencing, video relay, TTY, or any other technology that enables participants to be clearly audible to one other. ~~However, a quorum of the SAC, including the person chairing the meeting, is required to be physically present at the meeting location.~~

**TEMPORARY CHANGES DUE TO THE PANDEMIC STATE OF EMERGENCY (2020):** On March 12, 2020, Governor Baker issued an emergency [Executive Order](https://www.mass.gov/doc/order-suspending-certain-provision-of-open-meeting-law/download) suspending several portions of the OML. The EO relieves public bodies from the requirement in the Open Meeting Law that meetings be conducted in a public place that is open and physically accessible to the public, provided that the public body makes provision to ensure public access to the deliberations of the public body through adequate, alternative means. “Adequate, alternative means” may include, without limitation, providing public access through telephone, internet, or satellite enabled audio or video conferencing or any other technology that enables the public to clearly follow the proceedings of the public body in real time. All members of a public body may participate in a meeting remotely; the Open Meeting Law’s requirement that a quorum of the body and the chair be physically present at the meeting location is suspended. All other provisions of the Open Meeting Law, such as the requirements regarding posting notice of meetings and creating and maintaining accurate meeting minutes, as well as the limited, enumerated purposes for holding an executive session, remain in effect.

**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 11/11/2020***

27 Bills currently tracking

**1.** **S.198: Licensure of interpreters and oral transliterators** (Senator [James Welch](https://email.state.ma.us/OWA/redir.aspx?REF=hizRZ8OgMff-okIqTc4Tz9oLPxHUsio3pr5MKpt5yPptjGB0v4zYCAFodHRwczovL21hbGVnaXNsYXR1cmUuZ292L0xlZ2lzbGF0b3JzL1Byb2ZpbGUvSlRXMC8xOTE.))

[https://malegislature.gov/Bills/191/S198](https://email.state.ma.us/OWA/redir.aspx?REF=j-7u4gVKIT13fHAfQpL2Byjj0FUJFaSEMMaYzJYAyBttjGB0v4zYCAFodHRwczovL21hbGVnaXNsYXR1cmUuZ292L0JpbGxzLzE5MS9TMTk4)

Status: Referred to the [Joint Committee on Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure](https://email.state.ma.us/OWA/redir.aspx?REF=J0virY6zBHhTxYkvK4sl8RBwgtOLW2Un-KnzH3WjYKdtjGB0v4zYCAFodHRwczovL21hbGVnaXNsYXR1cmUuZ292L0NvbW1pdHRlZXMvRGV0YWlsL0oxNw..)

***Latest Activity: On 2/13/2020 the bill accompanied a study order, see*** [***S.2534***](https://email.state.ma.us/OWA/redir.aspx?REF=zQ9QMa4OQJQyla1lxERrVokZ1WO4q0VLDCOpNsw8xZ9tjGB0v4zYCAFodHRwczovL21hbGVnaXNsYXR1cmUuZ292L0JpbGxzLzE5MS9TMjUzNA..)

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

**2.** **S.197: Protects consumers of sign language and oral interpretation** (Senator [James Welch](https://email.state.ma.us/OWA/redir.aspx?REF=hizRZ8OgMff-okIqTc4Tz9oLPxHUsio3pr5MKpt5yPptjGB0v4zYCAFodHRwczovL21hbGVnaXNsYXR1cmUuZ292L0xlZ2lzbGF0b3JzL1Byb2ZpbGUvSlRXMC8xOTE.))

[https://malegislature.gov/Bills/191/S197](https://email.state.ma.us/OWA/redir.aspx?REF=ks0XlL_zl14EGbpoR9Vrpqxc_1lGq2ND9-rRGiOF3j5tjGB0v4zYCAFodHRwczovL21hbGVnaXNsYXR1cmUuZ292L0JpbGxzLzE5MS9TMTk3)

Status: Referred to the [Joint Committee on Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure](https://email.state.ma.us/OWA/redir.aspx?REF=J0virY6zBHhTxYkvK4sl8RBwgtOLW2Un-KnzH3WjYKdtjGB0v4zYCAFodHRwczovL21hbGVnaXNsYXR1cmUuZ292L0NvbW1pdHRlZXMvRGV0YWlsL0oxNw..)
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”

**3.** **S.305: Language Readiness for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children entering Kindergarten** (Senator [Eric Lesser](https://email.state.ma.us/OWA/redir.aspx?REF=r0zb4Zf8vqLYoVTYqwwfBjlaJY9q_rpNzN9rH92OSONtjGB0v4zYCAFodHRwczovL21hbGVnaXNsYXR1cmUuZ292L0xlZ2lzbGF0b3JzL1Byb2ZpbGUvRVBMMC8xOTE.))

[https://malegislature.gov/Bills/191/S305](https://email.state.ma.us/OWA/redir.aspx?REF=9iZ_tuaKzELEJtJYHr20s1G1TZOZVQhKJ8fHXSWQ7dhtjGB0v4zYCAFodHRwczovL21hbGVnaXNsYXR1cmUuZ292L0JpbGxzLzE5MS9TMzA1)
Status: Referred to the [Joint Committee on Education](https://email.state.ma.us/OWA/redir.aspx?REF=_7Z7yCe6j9wN5GmLgFWaNN_IpF6aIKeBG1bueCWHBM5tjGB0v4zYCAFodHRwczovL21hbGVnaXNsYXR1cmUuZ292L0NvbW1pdHRlZXMvRGV0YWlsL0oxNC8xOTE.)

***Latest Activity: On 2/18/2020 the bill accompanied a study order, see*** [***S.2538***](https://email.state.ma.us/OWA/redir.aspx?REF=BquYvn5lGnyBUGy6ibgW9Wla_fLsUiMad7Ps-FiUmf1tjGB0v4zYCAFodHRwczovL21hbGVnaXNsYXR1cmUuZ292L0JpbGxzLzE5MS9TMjUzOA..)

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

**4.** **H.3550: Readiness for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children entering Kindergarten**(Representative [Brian Ashe](https://email.state.ma.us/OWA/redir.aspx?REF=2xaaqPf4oJpvZYJUtZImgtfAimFiXJv5x-99DPSYPqxtjGB0v4zYCAFodHRwczovL21hbGVnaXNsYXR1cmUuZ292L0xlZ2lzbGF0b3JzL1Byb2ZpbGUvQk1BMS8xOTE.))

[https://malegislature.gov/Bills/191/H3550](https://email.state.ma.us/OWA/redir.aspx?REF=1GVD7HiEVJyrP_ldLVAV-uavY4SbzvOggr9GIb9ADJ5tjGB0v4zYCAFodHRwczovL21hbGVnaXNsYXR1cmUuZ292L0JpbGxzLzE5MS9IMzU1MA..)

Status: Referred to the [Joint Committee on Education](https://email.state.ma.us/OWA/redir.aspx?REF=_7Z7yCe6j9wN5GmLgFWaNN_IpF6aIKeBG1bueCWHBM5tjGB0v4zYCAFodHRwczovL21hbGVnaXNsYXR1cmUuZ292L0NvbW1pdHRlZXMvRGV0YWlsL0oxNC8xOTE.)

***Latest Activity: On 7/12/2019 a public hearing was scheduled for 07/23/2019 from 10:00 AM-5:00 PM in Gardner Auditorium***

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

**5.** **S.1824: Removing the term hearing impaired from the General Laws** (Senator [Cynthia Stone Creem](https://email.state.ma.us/OWA/redir.aspx?REF=qKQyZJ7ceQklpwkZO64J9qN4ZtepSuY2eQLY5QVrveVtjGB0v4zYCAFodHRwczovL21hbGVnaXNsYXR1cmUuZ292L0xlZ2lzbGF0b3JzL1Byb2ZpbGUvQ1NDMC8xOTE.))

[https://malegislature.gov/Bills/191/S1824](https://email.state.ma.us/OWA/redir.aspx?REF=hwS5sx5Z5JCaCUUZsRAWgsau3iJxM68PB-PCVS6psB5tjGB0v4zYCAFodHRwczovL21hbGVnaXNsYXR1cmUuZ292L0JpbGxzLzE5MS9TMTgyNA..)

Status: Referred favorably to the [***Senate Committee on Rules***](https://email.state.ma.us/OWA/redir.aspx?REF=GMyJtVayM9dogxZ28gadjTFncyRnrZlnZOEX9sdMq_BtjGB0v4zYCAFodHRwczovL21hbGVnaXNsYXR1cmUuZ292L0NvbW1pdHRlZXMvRGV0YWlsL1MyOS8xOTE.)

***Latest Activity: On 01/06/2020 the bill was reported favorably by committee and referred to the committee on*** [***Senate Rules***](https://email.state.ma.us/OWA/redir.aspx?REF=GMyJtVayM9dogxZ28gadjTFncyRnrZlnZOEX9sdMq_BtjGB0v4zYCAFodHRwczovL21hbGVnaXNsYXR1cmUuZ292L0NvbW1pdHRlZXMvRGV0YWlsL1MyOS8xOTE.)

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

**6.** **S.597: Providing coverage for hearing aids** (Senator [Adam Hinds](https://email.state.ma.us/OWA/redir.aspx?REF=GUXw5Io98v-sxklubZIYX5J5cAxoVvSBwUO-P_TY93htjGB0v4zYCAFodHRwczovL21hbGVnaXNsYXR1cmUuZ292L0xlZ2lzbGF0b3JzL1Byb2ZpbGUvQUdIMC8xOTE.))

[https://malegislature.gov/Bills/191/S597](https://email.state.ma.us/OWA/redir.aspx?REF=IlYtUbRlVviL0uX6PIIT2776AFQFVmshMygCeNTDrixtjGB0v4zYCAFodHRwczovL21hbGVnaXNsYXR1cmUuZ292L0JpbGxzLzE5MS9TNTk3)

Status: Referred to the [Joint Committee on Financial Services](https://email.state.ma.us/OWA/redir.aspx?REF=OIIrNWqAO81c3tXpSWY06oi_a5I7OWm6tmLwWGiWNJFtjGB0v4zYCAFodHRwczovL21hbGVnaXNsYXR1cmUuZ292L0NvbW1pdHRlZXMvRGV0YWlsL0oxMQ..)

***Latest Activity: On 2/18/2020 the bill accompanied a study order, see*** [***S.2543***](https://email.state.ma.us/OWA/redir.aspx?REF=wSXlZw16RmR3Kvp8e31wHub-o8zBTM-NReP1DY4_URJtjGB0v4zYCAFodHRwczovL21hbGVnaXNsYXR1cmUuZ292L0JpbGxzLzE5MS9TMjU0Mw..)

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

**7.** **S.1738: Tax credit for the purchase of hearing aids** (Senator [Patrick O’Connor](https://email.state.ma.us/OWA/redir.aspx?REF=O_ClNk-CxbVIEFhA034shBgIa4DLSQPCL1Kc3H_3Z01tjGB0v4zYCAFodHRwczovL21hbGVnaXNsYXR1cmUuZ292L0xlZ2lzbGF0b3JzL1Byb2ZpbGUvUE1PLzE5MQ..))

[https://malegislature.gov/Bills/191/S1738](https://email.state.ma.us/OWA/redir.aspx?REF=yo8NPHsNzNWSnRaY9BTe2_DSZJzkpr8lbKuxfzfxMudtjGB0v4zYCAFodHRwczovL21hbGVnaXNsYXR1cmUuZ292L0JpbGxzLzE5MS9TMTczOA..)

Status: Referred to the [Joint Committee on Revenue](https://email.state.ma.us/OWA/redir.aspx?REF=d0oL-0126a3OhTCwTB_wjgp02i1e1oXgxmDDwtcyBi5tjGB0v4zYCAFodHRwczovL21hbGVnaXNsYXR1cmUuZ292L0NvbW1pdHRlZXMvRGV0YWlsL0oyNg..)
Latest Activity***: On 2/27/2020 the bill was reported favorably by committee and referred to the committee on*** [***House Ways and Means***](https://email.state.ma.us/OWA/redir.aspx?REF=5m27gvn1CE9vQejPM96hCLaAAgYHC0MRzDozu3l6pRVtjGB0v4zYCAFodHRwczovL21hbGVnaXNsYXR1cmUuZ292L0NvbW1pdHRlZXMvRGV0YWlsL0gzNC8xOTE.)

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

**8.** **S.1643: Tax abatement for Deaf residents** (Senator [Diana DiZoglio](https://email.state.ma.us/OWA/redir.aspx?REF=9mCjn4GXtpxNfQzDdUrREDUme69SjBTFnyfH2JmMk9ptjGB0v4zYCAFodHRwczovL21hbGVnaXNsYXR1cmUuZ292L0xlZ2lzbGF0b3JzL1Byb2ZpbGUvRF9EMC8xOTE.))

[https://malegislature.gov/Bills/191/S1643](https://email.state.ma.us/OWA/redir.aspx?REF=jotfoQSpVbFLaSoMe4PwK-nvlvSMAS_XJjsO4vmuS45tjGB0v4zYCAFodHRwczovL21hbGVnaXNsYXR1cmUuZ292L0JpbGxzLzE5MS9TMTY0Mw..)

Status: Referred to the [Joint Committee on Revenue](https://email.state.ma.us/OWA/redir.aspx?REF=d0oL-0126a3OhTCwTB_wjgp02i1e1oXgxmDDwtcyBi5tjGB0v4zYCAFodHRwczovL21hbGVnaXNsYXR1cmUuZ292L0NvbW1pdHRlZXMvRGV0YWlsL0oyNg..)
Latest Activity***: On 2/20/2020 the bill accompanied a study order, see*** [***S.2549***](https://email.state.ma.us/OWA/redir.aspx?REF=ou5STlhJ6UAx--So_k1Ig6SjRkDYt6hOI5fi8nKWNEltjGB0v4zYCAFodHRwczovL21hbGVnaXNsYXR1cmUuZ292L0JpbGxzLzE5MS9TMjU0OQ..)

Purpose: Allows a tax abatement for Deaf homeowners

**9.** **S.540: Providing coverage for hearing aids for persons with sensory impairedness** (Senator [Joseph Boncore](https://email.state.ma.us/OWA/redir.aspx?REF=S31KNWrLifVlkyfgPwmrKCmWtOaURjlboMszNwKOZzdtjGB0v4zYCAFodHRwczovL21hbGVnaXNsYXR1cmUuZ292L0xlZ2lzbGF0b3JzL1Byb2ZpbGUvSkFCMC8xOTE.)\*)

[https://malegislature.gov/Bills/191/S540](https://email.state.ma.us/OWA/redir.aspx?REF=HskYIC4BGrirGkb6fWVKvqGtvYh5W2cyPkbQg4xyMmJtjGB0v4zYCAFodHRwczovL21hbGVnaXNsYXR1cmUuZ292L0JpbGxzLzE5MS9TNTQw)

Status: Referred to the [Joint Committee on Financial Services](https://email.state.ma.us/OWA/redir.aspx?REF=OIIrNWqAO81c3tXpSWY06oi_a5I7OWm6tmLwWGiWNJFtjGB0v4zYCAFodHRwczovL21hbGVnaXNsYXR1cmUuZ292L0NvbW1pdHRlZXMvRGV0YWlsL0oxMQ..)

***Latest Activity: On 2/18/2020 the bill accompanied a study order, see*** [***S.2543***](https://email.state.ma.us/OWA/redir.aspx?REF=wSXlZw16RmR3Kvp8e31wHub-o8zBTM-NReP1DY4_URJtjGB0v4zYCAFodHRwczovL21hbGVnaXNsYXR1cmUuZ292L0JpbGxzLzE5MS9TMjU0Mw..)

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

**10.** **S.683: Medicare for all in Massachusetts** (Senator [James Eldridge](https://email.state.ma.us/OWA/redir.aspx?REF=vNDLTes3Q3DtQRFPWC3_npcbd_YLn8pGaeWKUq0sGC1tjGB0v4zYCAFodHRwczovL21hbGVnaXNsYXR1cmUuZ292L0xlZ2lzbGF0b3JzL1Byb2ZpbGUvSkJFMC8xOTE.))

[https://malegislature.gov/Bills/191/S683](https://email.state.ma.us/OWA/redir.aspx?REF=fzZrUZE-ibHrMG00qTd8saJvsrnZR7H3WIGnR8Bn8TVtjGB0v4zYCAFodHRwczovL21hbGVnaXNsYXR1cmUuZ292L0JpbGxzLzE5MS9TNjgz)

Status: Referred to the [Joint Committee on Health Care Financing](https://email.state.ma.us/OWA/redir.aspx?REF=Zf01nvRbzEHR-0mHmnZXzEx4yJfNIS3nFOfoBkthiTBtjGB0v4zYCAFodHRwczovL21hbGVnaXNsYXR1cmUuZ292L0NvbW1pdHRlZXMvRGV0YWlsL0oyNA..)
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

**11.** **H.1194: Medicare for all in Massachusetts** Representatives [Lindsay Sabadosa](https://email.state.ma.us/OWA/redir.aspx?REF=VRRXhihSozPZUW1UJKWRGNluVYEwE-2_m11vGz96jO9tjGB0v4zYCAFodHRwczovL21hbGVnaXNsYXR1cmUuZ292L0xlZ2lzbGF0b3JzL1Byb2ZpbGUvTF9TMS8xOTE.) & [Denise Garlick](https://email.state.ma.us/OWA/redir.aspx?REF=5espyEz3kepwbKPMWKDc7epl1vU5PDH3zkF49CFjX15tjGB0v4zYCAFodHRwczovL21hbGVnaXNsYXR1cmUuZ292L0xlZ2lzbGF0b3JzL1Byb2ZpbGUvRENHMS8xOTE.))

[https://malegislature.gov/Bills/191/H1194](https://email.state.ma.us/OWA/redir.aspx?REF=Fu_97De4HUGGHqKgYr_bRxkBPKtclg2e5JAl9-fg_5BtjGB0v4zYCAFodHRwczovL21hbGVnaXNsYXR1cmUuZ292L0JpbGxzLzE5MS9IMTE5NA..)

Status: Referred to the [Joint Committee on Health Care Financing](https://email.state.ma.us/OWA/redir.aspx?REF=Zf01nvRbzEHR-0mHmnZXzEx4yJfNIS3nFOfoBkthiTBtjGB0v4zYCAFodHRwczovL21hbGVnaXNsYXR1cmUuZ292L0NvbW1pdHRlZXMvRGV0YWlsL0oyNA..)

***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

**12.** **H.276: Increased access to hearing aids** (Representative [James Kelcourse](https://email.state.ma.us/OWA/redir.aspx?REF=ZUFKUTdYV3jtsUguTAZmUEFOx8z-0V3D2Lj4HX3m8nltjGB0v4zYCAFodHRwczovL21hbGVnaXNsYXR1cmUuZ292L0xlZ2lzbGF0b3JzL1Byb2ZpbGUvSk1LMS8xOTE.))

[https://malegislature.gov/Bills/191/H276](https://email.state.ma.us/OWA/redir.aspx?REF=CeAOYfK_JywpEjQbeIKJgLpd5tbXtpRNnU1Q18fWJ1FtjGB0v4zYCAFodHRwczovL21hbGVnaXNsYXR1cmUuZ292L0JpbGxzLzE5MS9IMjc2)

Status: Referred to the [Joint Committee on Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure](https://email.state.ma.us/OWA/redir.aspx?REF=J0virY6zBHhTxYkvK4sl8RBwgtOLW2Un-KnzH3WjYKdtjGB0v4zYCAFodHRwczovL21hbGVnaXNsYXR1cmUuZ292L0NvbW1pdHRlZXMvRGV0YWlsL0oxNw..)

***Latest Activity: On 01/21/2020 the bill accompanied a new draft, see*** [***H.4298***](https://email.state.ma.us/OWA/redir.aspx?REF=XPM4tJGfYPFebb9F0eEc5jSF_klnwZ63BW4d5qVzuTNtjGB0v4zYCAFodHRwczovL21hbGVnaXNsYXR1cmUuZ292L0JpbGxzLzE5MS9INDI5OA..)

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

**13.** **H.236: Increased access to hearing aids** (Representative [Carole Fiola](https://email.state.ma.us/OWA/redir.aspx?REF=FX-WUtVA7oEbtLQjCMr3o2EVJAJAGn2RiY8Q03d8x6JtjGB0v4zYCAFodHRwczovL21hbGVnaXNsYXR1cmUuZ292L0xlZ2lzbGF0b3JzL1Byb2ZpbGUvQ0FGMS8xOTE.))

[https://malegislature.gov/Bills/191/H236](https://email.state.ma.us/OWA/redir.aspx?REF=H5NnKHh4oK3cb1g7vGzeVRqHEQ2bDKjHdLEqu56r9bNtjGB0v4zYCAFodHRwczovL21hbGVnaXNsYXR1cmUuZ292L0JpbGxzLzE5MS9IMjM2)

Status: Referred to the [Joint Committee on Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure](https://email.state.ma.us/OWA/redir.aspx?REF=J0virY6zBHhTxYkvK4sl8RBwgtOLW2Un-KnzH3WjYKdtjGB0v4zYCAFodHRwczovL21hbGVnaXNsYXR1cmUuZ292L0NvbW1pdHRlZXMvRGV0YWlsL0oxNw..)

***Latest Activity: On 01/21/2020 the bill accompanied a new draft, see*** [***H.4298***](https://email.state.ma.us/OWA/redir.aspx?REF=XPM4tJGfYPFebb9F0eEc5jSF_klnwZ63BW4d5qVzuTNtjGB0v4zYCAFodHRwczovL21hbGVnaXNsYXR1cmUuZ292L0JpbGxzLzE5MS9INDI5OA..)
***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

**14.** **S.151: Increased access to hearing aids** (Senator [Adam Hinds](https://email.state.ma.us/OWA/redir.aspx?REF=GUXw5Io98v-sxklubZIYX5J5cAxoVvSBwUO-P_TY93htjGB0v4zYCAFodHRwczovL21hbGVnaXNsYXR1cmUuZ292L0xlZ2lzbGF0b3JzL1Byb2ZpbGUvQUdIMC8xOTE.))

[https://malegislature.gov/Bills/191/S151](https://email.state.ma.us/OWA/redir.aspx?REF=ntGz15d0oGILURl28CzDnPe4-HLg9MckrF5mtTne0BttjGB0v4zYCAFodHRwczovL21hbGVnaXNsYXR1cmUuZ292L0JpbGxzLzE5MS9TMTUx)

Status: Referred to the [Joint Committee on Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure](https://email.state.ma.us/OWA/redir.aspx?REF=J0virY6zBHhTxYkvK4sl8RBwgtOLW2Un-KnzH3WjYKdtjGB0v4zYCAFodHRwczovL21hbGVnaXNsYXR1cmUuZ292L0NvbW1pdHRlZXMvRGV0YWlsL0oxNw..)

***Latest Activity: On 01/21/2020 the bill accompanied a new draft, see*** [***H.4298***](https://email.state.ma.us/OWA/redir.aspx?REF=XPM4tJGfYPFebb9F0eEc5jSF_klnwZ63BW4d5qVzuTNtjGB0v4zYCAFodHRwczovL21hbGVnaXNsYXR1cmUuZ292L0JpbGxzLzE5MS9INDI5OA..)

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

**15.** **S.139: Increased access to hearing aids** (Senator [Diana DiZoglio](https://email.state.ma.us/OWA/redir.aspx?REF=9mCjn4GXtpxNfQzDdUrREDUme69SjBTFnyfH2JmMk9ptjGB0v4zYCAFodHRwczovL21hbGVnaXNsYXR1cmUuZ292L0xlZ2lzbGF0b3JzL1Byb2ZpbGUvRF9EMC8xOTE.))

[https://malegislaturegov/Bills/191/S139](https://email.state.ma.us/OWA/redir.aspx?REF=VnmeBN2pVQ3F4_30PqKV6kktLqVYuZQoWshrrdJTV-htjGB0v4zYCAFodHRwczovL21hbGVnaXNsYXR1cmUuZ292L0JpbGxzLzE5MS9TMTM5)

Status: Referred to the [Joint Committee on Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure](https://email.state.ma.us/OWA/redir.aspx?REF=J0virY6zBHhTxYkvK4sl8RBwgtOLW2Un-KnzH3WjYKdtjGB0v4zYCAFodHRwczovL21hbGVnaXNsYXR1cmUuZ292L0NvbW1pdHRlZXMvRGV0YWlsL0oxNw..)

***Latest Activity: On 01/21/2020 the bill accompanied a new draft, see*** [***H.4298***](https://email.state.ma.us/OWA/redir.aspx?REF=XPM4tJGfYPFebb9F0eEc5jSF_klnwZ63BW4d5qVzuTNtjGB0v4zYCAFodHRwczovL21hbGVnaXNsYXR1cmUuZ292L0JpbGxzLzE5MS9INDI5OA..)

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

**16.** **H.142: Creating a means for tracking the unmet need of individuals with developmental disabilities in Massachusetts** (Representative [Jason Lewis](https://email.state.ma.us/OWA/redir.aspx?REF=85OQ_PkKV1c2aZ5Q1fCfHNvG4ZUNcbW8q1ZgwxQNMmRtjGB0v4zYCAFodHRwczovL21hbGVnaXNsYXR1cmUuZ292L0xlZ2lzbGF0b3JzL1Byb2ZpbGUvSlBMMS8xOTE.))

[https://malegislature.gov/Bills/191/H142](https://email.state.ma.us/OWA/redir.aspx?REF=zxg3E-6t2WdUUJXxTb5uZs4ICB-yOcgKOmM4aZJmraJtjGB0v4zYCAFodHRwczovL21hbGVnaXNsYXR1cmUuZ292L0JpbGxzLzE5MS9IMTQy)

Status: Referred to the [Joint Committee on Children, Families, and Persons with Disabilities](https://email.state.ma.us/OWA/redir.aspx?REF=g0Xr4_HI1hKCQ1lWaG16_QFUd7AH87s03WXlQpJjaNVtjGB0v4zYCAFodHRwczovL21hbGVnaXNsYXR1cmUuZ292L0NvbW1pdHRlZXMvRGV0YWlsL0oxMw..)
Latest Activity***: On 03/05/2020 the bill accompanied a new draft, see*** [***H.4496***](https://email.state.ma.us/OWA/redir.aspx?REF=7KxGLYa4Q5m8q8EqRLhbW--6_weX-olcuR0oe0VE8qRtjGB0v4zYCAFodHRwczovL21hbGVnaXNsYXR1cmUuZ292L0JpbGxzLzE5MS9INDQ5Ng..)

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

**17.** **H.2855: Providing hearing and visual aids to deaf and blind viewers** (Representative[Ann-Margaret Ferrante](https://email.state.ma.us/OWA/redir.aspx?REF=_Oi57jrWX7LAgvy15vdEH2HuKsOZQFzvEtUpNzvL-d9tjGB0v4zYCAFodHRwczovL21hbGVnaXNsYXR1cmUuZ292L0xlZ2lzbGF0b3JzL1Byb2ZpbGUvQU1GMS8xOTE.))

[https://malegislature.gov/Bills/191/H2855](https://email.state.ma.us/OWA/redir.aspx?REF=0LrhhfetppkrFsztl0L7YQA6ryp5FYzXE5J7dKAb99ltjGB0v4zYCAFodHRwczovL21hbGVnaXNsYXR1cmUuZ292L0JpbGxzLzE5MS9IMjg1NQ..)

Status: Referred to the [Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy](https://email.state.ma.us/OWA/redir.aspx?REF=zlOshthpTqr8Z9hnibw0IzqfV73YVKOexbaOlOPUdIltjGB0v4zYCAFodHRwczovL21hbGVnaXNsYXR1cmUuZ292L0NvbW1pdHRlZXMvRGV0YWlsL0ozNw..)

***Latest Activity: On 2/10/2020 the bill accompanied a study order, see*** [***H.4405***](https://email.state.ma.us/OWA/redir.aspx?REF=TCgE4EaPoUUMGtsL5O2hUgDyZ2U7TbFbrnUUiKxj1VRtjGB0v4zYCAFodHRwczovL21hbGVnaXNsYXR1cmUuZ292L0JpbGxzLzE5MS9oNDQwNQ..)

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

**18.** **H.1487: Prohibiting discrimination against adults with disabilities in family and juvenile court proceedings** (Representative [Kay Khan](https://email.state.ma.us/OWA/redir.aspx?REF=069gLyjdqsVG5ZuoqrfXU_jjLeGQveISfculbBf8pp9tjGB0v4zYCAFodHRwczovL21hbGVnaXNsYXR1cmUuZ292L0xlZ2lzbGF0b3JzL1Byb2ZpbGUvS19LMS8xOTE.))

[https://malegislature.gov/Bills/191/H1487](https://email.state.ma.us/OWA/redir.aspx?REF=5FSBUmlCymzDMIIP_A1mxeqi92vnmzMc3iSM6Hf4hpFtjGB0v4zYCAFodHRwczovL21hbGVnaXNsYXR1cmUuZ292L0JpbGxzLzE5MS9IMTQ4Nw..)

Status: Referred to the [Joint Committee on the Judiciary](https://email.state.ma.us/OWA/redir.aspx?REF=BEPa6uIn9roqcSI-M-ARP9CbbFPPISJ0hwzM-gvNQcltjGB0v4zYCAFodHRwczovL21hbGVnaXNsYXR1cmUuZ292L0NvbW1pdHRlZXMvRGV0YWlsL0oxOQ..)

***Latest Activity: On 10/01/2020 the Senate concurred with the House reporting date extended to Thursday, November 12, 2020.***

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

**19.** **S.983: Prohibiting discrimination against adults with disabilities in family and juvenile court proceedings** (Senator[Joan Lovely](https://email.state.ma.us/OWA/redir.aspx?REF=PmhWE9Jw4NOVZ3EjlyqqetCXC7ag134g2_QkMZvLmAFtjGB0v4zYCAFodHRwczovL21hbGVnaXNsYXR1cmUuZ292L0xlZ2lzbGF0b3JzL1Byb2ZpbGUvSkJMMC8xOTE.))

[https://malegislature.gov/Bills/191/S983](https://email.state.ma.us/OWA/redir.aspx?REF=LXPvyo8I-8pM2QgPaHLSUZPwN_5XvvDXA9T6u0kbevptjGB0v4zYCAFodHRwczovL21hbGVnaXNsYXR1cmUuZ292L0JpbGxzLzE5MS9TOTgz)

Status: Referred to the [Joint Committee on the Judiciary](https://email.state.ma.us/OWA/redir.aspx?REF=BEPa6uIn9roqcSI-M-ARP9CbbFPPISJ0hwzM-gvNQcltjGB0v4zYCAFodHRwczovL21hbGVnaXNsYXR1cmUuZ292L0NvbW1pdHRlZXMvRGV0YWlsL0oxOQ..)
Latest Activity***: On 10/26/2020 – House – Concurrence to extend reporting date to Thursday, November 12, 2020.***

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

**20.** **H.2057: American Sign Language Training** (Representative [Shawn Dooley](https://email.state.ma.us/OWA/redir.aspx?REF=swa7n7cFT7_jw9b4AU3KGyegyqOsHBql9avcVrWk0zVtjGB0v4zYCAFodHRwczovL21hbGVnaXNsYXR1cmUuZ292L0xlZ2lzbGF0b3JzL1Byb2ZpbGUvU19EMS8xOTE.))

[https://malegislature.gov/Bills/191/H2057](https://email.state.ma.us/OWA/redir.aspx?REF=3sri39tVvB3EjYQHOla2WyoCc6ZlyqcX6nXRxtO8mV5tjGB0v4zYCAFodHRwczovL21hbGVnaXNsYXR1cmUuZ292L0JpbGxzLzE5MS9IMjA1Nw..)

Status: Referred to the [Joint Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security](https://email.state.ma.us/OWA/redir.aspx?REF=pGCnlbf_4FUtyhu6XIaTUNIrZW949vvSON8lEr-ezCltjGB0v4zYCAFodHRwczovL21hbGVnaXNsYXR1cmUuZ292L0NvbW1pdHRlZXMvRGV0YWlsL0oyMg..)

***Latest Activity: On 02/24/2020 the bill was reported favorably by committee and referred to the committee on*** [***House Ways and Means***](https://email.state.ma.us/OWA/redir.aspx?REF=5m27gvn1CE9vQejPM96hCLaAAgYHC0MRzDozu3l6pRVtjGB0v4zYCAFodHRwczovL21hbGVnaXNsYXR1cmUuZ292L0NvbW1pdHRlZXMvRGV0YWlsL0gzNC8xOTE.)

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

**21.** **H.2954: Providing improved access to taxicabs for persons with disabilities**(Representative [Bruce Ayers](https://email.state.ma.us/OWA/redir.aspx?REF=v3URfzlPNAJG3i6BUzD1JMGJCCFQhzJIpuX-OLlERt5tjGB0v4zYCAFodHRwczovL21hbGVnaXNsYXR1cmUuZ292L0xlZ2lzbGF0b3JzL1Byb2ZpbGUvQkpBMS8xOTE.))

[https://malegislature.gov/Bills/191/H2954](https://email.state.ma.us/OWA/redir.aspx?REF=8XmYdx1uqZPx7Fdr15kGD4jnCCSSbVsZzLh2z8ubFaNtjGB0v4zYCAFodHRwczovL21hbGVnaXNsYXR1cmUuZ292L0JpbGxzLzE5MS9IMjk1NA..)

Status: Referred to the [Joint Committee on Transportation](https://email.state.ma.us/OWA/redir.aspx?REF=Gi-Fb-0MuwocOsl3qzC_xTTb19lTI-EuafKhW2tGLvVtjGB0v4zYCAFodHRwczovL21hbGVnaXNsYXR1cmUuZ292L0NvbW1pdHRlZXMvRGV0YWlsL0oyNw..)

***Latest Activity: On 02/18/2020 the bill was reported favorably by committee and referred to the committee on*** [***House Ways and Means***](https://email.state.ma.us/OWA/redir.aspx?REF=5m27gvn1CE9vQejPM96hCLaAAgYHC0MRzDozu3l6pRVtjGB0v4zYCAFodHRwczovL21hbGVnaXNsYXR1cmUuZ292L0NvbW1pdHRlZXMvRGV0YWlsL0gzNC8xOTE.)

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

**22.** **S.1810: An Act relative to employment of persons with disabilities on state contracts** (Senator[Nick Collins](https://email.state.ma.us/OWA/redir.aspx?REF=8pEHc_V7_8IqdlgGPp_JzRFKgKaSXDFDu_pgAHBHOchtjGB0v4zYCAFodHRwczovL21hbGVnaXNsYXR1cmUuZ292L0xlZ2lzbGF0b3JzL1Byb2ZpbGUvTl9DMC8xOTE.))

[https://malegislature.gov/Bills/191/S1810](https://email.state.ma.us/OWA/redir.aspx?REF=7745Bh7If5bcjbrYzfmOywO-1WhgHn4ghQmsGpgxTr9tjGB0v4zYCAFodHRwczovL21hbGVnaXNsYXR1cmUuZ292L0JpbGxzLzE5MS9TMTgxMA..)

Status: Referred to the [Senate Committee on Ways and Means](https://email.state.ma.us/OWA/redir.aspx?REF=xJGetKoEabfEHLRbHyLc3mVefC3Jusscy3ArkjCQsIRtjGB0v4zYCAFodHRwczovL21hbGVnaXNsYXR1cmUuZ292L0NvbW1pdHRlZXMvRGV0YWlsL1MzMC8xOTE.)

***Latest Activity: On 12/04/2019 the bill accompanied by*** [***H.2671***](https://email.state.ma.us/OWA/redir.aspx?REF=Y9QzUnQYR8oz-W6ZSRb3p7EPnz9QpCmXpGVlLQrAV6ptjGB0v4zYCAFodHRwczovL21hbGVnaXNsYXR1cmUuZ292L0JpbGxzLzE5MS9IMjY3MQ..) ***& Bill reported favorably by committee and referred to the committee on*** [***Senate Ways and Means***](https://email.state.ma.us/OWA/redir.aspx?REF=mKSjouq2NjWwzmaOAOI1tnnjtRLOY8sddhd5ExxvCYptjGB0v4zYCAFodHRwczovL21hbGVnaXNsYXR1cmUuZ292L0NvbW1pdHRlZXMvRGV0YWlsL1MzMA..)
***Purpose***: Would require that companies receiving state contracts employ at least 10% of people with disabilities on that contract

**23.** **H.929: An Act requiring reimbursement for the costs of providing competent interpreter services** (Senator[Gerard Cassidy](https://email.state.ma.us/OWA/redir.aspx?REF=bFmsIjVOrM5ooNbg2lmcBFDJE0pm5tdc4FeqP0a6zMhtjGB0v4zYCAFodHRwczovL21hbGVnaXNsYXR1cmUuZ292L0xlZ2lzbGF0b3JzL1Byb2ZpbGUvR19DMi8xOTE.))

[https://malegislature.gov/Bills/191/H929](https://email.state.ma.us/OWA/redir.aspx?REF=hpAiEL1oukylfGDaryD8-M4wOHqDigOXOC-D4pYyZZxtjGB0v4zYCAFodHRwczovL21hbGVnaXNsYXR1cmUuZ292L0JpbGxzLzE5MS9IOTI5)

Status: Referred to the [Joint Committee on Financial Services](https://email.state.ma.us/OWA/redir.aspx?REF=OIIrNWqAO81c3tXpSWY06oi_a5I7OWm6tmLwWGiWNJFtjGB0v4zYCAFodHRwczovL21hbGVnaXNsYXR1cmUuZ292L0NvbW1pdHRlZXMvRGV0YWlsL0oxMQ..)
Latest Activity***: On 09/30/2019 a public hearing was scheduled for 10/08/2019 from 11:00 AM-4:00 PM in Gardner Auditorium***
*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.

**24.** **S.922: An Act relative to juvenile violence** (Senator [Diana DiZoglio](https://email.state.ma.us/OWA/redir.aspx?REF=9mCjn4GXtpxNfQzDdUrREDUme69SjBTFnyfH2JmMk9ptjGB0v4zYCAFodHRwczovL21hbGVnaXNsYXR1cmUuZ292L0xlZ2lzbGF0b3JzL1Byb2ZpbGUvRF9EMC8xOTE.)\*)

[https://malegislature.gov/Bills/191/S922](https://email.state.ma.us/OWA/redir.aspx?REF=RA0zYh410055zZSA7OfEAN325Tb1hqdmhzgz1pQbKFBtjGB0v4zYCAFodHRwczovL21hbGVnaXNsYXR1cmUuZ292L0JpbGxzLzE5MS9TOTIy)

Status: Referred to the [Joint Committee on the Judiciary](https://email.state.ma.us/OWA/redir.aspx?REF=BEPa6uIn9roqcSI-M-ARP9CbbFPPISJ0hwzM-gvNQcltjGB0v4zYCAFodHRwczovL21hbGVnaXNsYXR1cmUuZ292L0NvbW1pdHRlZXMvRGV0YWlsL0oxOQ..)

***Latest Activity: On 02/03/2020 the bill accompanied a study order, see*** [***S.2496***](https://email.state.ma.us/OWA/redir.aspx?REF=yWi17azQ9epf23jKUQg8Sq2je0ph2rorzDvjmX2aivJtjGB0v4zYCAFodHRwczovL21hbGVnaXNsYXR1cmUuZ292L0JpbGxzLzE5MS9TMjQ5Ng..)

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.”

**25.** **H.2671: An Act relative to the employment of persons with disabilities on state contracts** (Representative[David Biele](https://email.state.ma.us/OWA/redir.aspx?REF=feLDp79F-SubFBq14ZqllIOrHdd2Rcyrv_dLBzBdIfdtjGB0v4zYCAFodHRwczovL21hbGVnaXNsYXR1cmUuZ292L0xlZ2lzbGF0b3JzL1Byb2ZpbGUvRF9CMS8xOTE.) & Representative [Daniel Hunt](https://email.state.ma.us/OWA/redir.aspx?REF=2JTcpBdFqSUq__nX22OgUgVtLjuEF7qV96ETXgP5FE9tjGB0v4zYCAFodHRwczovL21hbGVnaXNsYXR1cmUuZ292L0xlZ2lzbGF0b3JzL1Byb2ZpbGUvZGpoMS8xOTE.))

[https://malegislature.gov/Bills/191/H2671](https://email.state.ma.us/OWA/redir.aspx?REF=Y9QzUnQYR8oz-W6ZSRb3p7EPnz9QpCmXpGVlLQrAV6ptjGB0v4zYCAFodHRwczovL21hbGVnaXNsYXR1cmUuZ292L0JpbGxzLzE5MS9IMjY3MQ..)

Status: Referred to the [Joint Committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight](https://email.state.ma.us/OWA/redir.aspx?REF=6PsHWrgtHakNxwmRIUg8CaEimnNRQvQ5Yq5U5BdxzXZtjGB0v4zYCAFodHRwczovL21hbGVnaXNsYXR1cmUuZ292L0NvbW1pdHRlZXMvRGV0YWlsL0oyNQ..)
Latest Activity***: On 12/4/2019 the bill accompanied*** [***S.1810***](https://email.state.ma.us/OWA/redir.aspx?REF=7745Bh7If5bcjbrYzfmOywO-1WhgHn4ghQmsGpgxTr9tjGB0v4zYCAFodHRwczovL21hbGVnaXNsYXR1cmUuZ292L0JpbGxzLzE5MS9TMTgxMA..)

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

**26.** **H.4298: Increased access to hearing aids** (Joint Committee on Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure) New draft of [S.139](https://email.state.ma.us/OWA/redir.aspx?REF=VnmeBN2pVQ3F4_30PqKV6kktLqVYuZQoWshrrdJTV-htjGB0v4zYCAFodHRwczovL21hbGVnaXNsYXR1cmUuZ292L0JpbGxzLzE5MS9TMTM5), [S.151](https://email.state.ma.us/OWA/redir.aspx?REF=ntGz15d0oGILURl28CzDnPe4-HLg9MckrF5mtTne0BttjGB0v4zYCAFodHRwczovL21hbGVnaXNsYXR1cmUuZ292L0JpbGxzLzE5MS9TMTUx), [H.236](https://email.state.ma.us/OWA/redir.aspx?REF=H5NnKHh4oK3cb1g7vGzeVRqHEQ2bDKjHdLEqu56r9bNtjGB0v4zYCAFodHRwczovL21hbGVnaXNsYXR1cmUuZ292L0JpbGxzLzE5MS9IMjM2) and [H.276](https://email.state.ma.us/OWA/redir.aspx?REF=CeAOYfK_JywpEjQbeIKJgLpd5tbXtpRNnU1Q18fWJ1FtjGB0v4zYCAFodHRwczovL21hbGVnaXNsYXR1cmUuZ292L0JpbGxzLzE5MS9IMjc2)

[https://malegislature.gov/Bills/191/H4298](https://email.state.ma.us/OWA/redir.aspx?REF=XPM4tJGfYPFebb9F0eEc5jSF_klnwZ63BW4d5qVzuTNtjGB0v4zYCAFodHRwczovL21hbGVnaXNsYXR1cmUuZ292L0JpbGxzLzE5MS9INDI5OA..)
Status: Referred to the [Joint Committee on Health Care Financing](https://email.state.ma.us/OWA/redir.aspx?REF=_No9W2c2nfD-rPVeiinFsutvy6sk4TEYp11tA0xtTEltjGB0v4zYCAFodHRwczovL21hbGVnaXNsYXR1cmUuZ292L0NvbW1pdHRlZXMvRGV0YWlsL0oyNC8xOTE.)
Latest Activity***: On 08/20/2020 the House - Ought NOT to pass (under Joint Rule 10) and placed in the Orders of the Day for the next sitting, the question being on acceptance & 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

**27.** **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://email.state.ma.us/OWA/redir.aspx?REF=g0Xr4_HI1hKCQ1lWaG16_QFUd7AH87s03WXlQpJjaNVtjGB0v4zYCAFodHRwczovL21hbGVnaXNsYXR1cmUuZ292L0NvbW1pdHRlZXMvRGV0YWlsL0oxMw..)) New draft of [H88](https://email.state.ma.us/OWA/redir.aspx?REF=0XAz33yFMIS08zfbdBytyHgyfNfqawJKKxjsAZD6y6FtjGB0v4zYCAFodHRwczovL21hbGVnaXNsYXR1cmUuZ292L0JpbGxzLzE5MS9IODg.), [H100](https://email.state.ma.us/OWA/redir.aspx?REF=xOojUspf-qWRLztyZQRCtDbSF7w-vpzVRujj6PdXto9tjGB0v4zYCAFodHRwczovL21hbGVnaXNsYXR1cmUuZ292L0JpbGxzLzE5MS9IMTAw), [H142](https://email.state.ma.us/OWA/redir.aspx?REF=zxg3E-6t2WdUUJXxTb5uZs4ICB-yOcgKOmM4aZJmraJtjGB0v4zYCAFodHRwczovL21hbGVnaXNsYXR1cmUuZ292L0JpbGxzLzE5MS9IMTQy), [H161](https://email.state.ma.us/OWA/redir.aspx?REF=kQ52LZaZ7dKCbxzxNkSg53VmFujN0Mp9f9DRSTReBkptjGB0v4zYCAFodHRwczovL21hbGVnaXNsYXR1cmUuZ292L0JpbGxzLzE5MS9IMTYx) and [H3752](https://email.state.ma.us/OWA/redir.aspx?REF=wnKThdulrtYltd0Zrnzvae179_N-3FMZezIOZCGS0JhtjGB0v4zYCAFodHRwczovL21hbGVnaXNsYXR1cmUuZ292L0JpbGxzLzE5MS9IMzc1Mg..)

[https://malegislature.gov/Bills/191/H4496](https://email.state.ma.us/OWA/redir.aspx?REF=7KxGLYa4Q5m8q8EqRLhbW--6_weX-olcuR0oe0VE8qRtjGB0v4zYCAFodHRwczovL21hbGVnaXNsYXR1cmUuZ292L0JpbGxzLzE5MS9INDQ5Ng..)

Status: Referred to the [Joint Committee on Children, Families, and Persons with Disabilities](https://email.state.ma.us/OWA/redir.aspx?REF=g0Xr4_HI1hKCQ1lWaG16_QFUd7AH87s03WXlQpJjaNVtjGB0v4zYCAFodHRwczovL21hbGVnaXNsYXR1cmUuZ292L0NvbW1pdHRlZXMvRGV0YWlsL0oxMw..)
Latest Activity***: On 03/05/2020 bill reported favorably by committee and referred to the committee on*** [***House Ways and Means***](https://email.state.ma.us/OWA/redir.aspx?REF=5m27gvn1CE9vQejPM96hCLaAAgYHC0MRzDozu3l6pRVtjGB0v4zYCAFodHRwczovL21hbGVnaXNsYXR1cmUuZ292L0NvbW1pdHRlZXMvRGV0YWlsL0gzNC8xOTE.)

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

Editor’s note: H: stands for the House and S: for the Senate

These bills were found on [www.malegislature.gov](https://email.state.ma.us/OWA/redir.aspx?REF=Ndjp2eGR3tLLcNxlEHBPbcBfTr30cXfsPcLXYzZhsvltjGB0v4zYCAFodHRwOi8vd3d3Lm1hbGVnaXNsYXR1cmUuZ292) using the following keywords: deaf, sign language/ASL, cochlear (none), amplifier/amplified (none), caption/captions/captioning, interpreter/interpreting, assistive/assisted listening/device, hearing aid(s), late deafened, deaf blind, deafblind (none), and hard of hearing

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://email.state.ma.us/OWA/redir.aspx?REF=5u4qHxrYFQJOARQvpOR6GGC4ykyKdnJcSmV4oH9492xtjGB0v4zYCAFodHRwczovL3d3dy5tYWxlZ2lzbGF0dXJlLmdvdg..)

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

[https://malegislature.gov/Content/Documents/HowAnIdeaBecomesLaw/HowAnIdeaBecomesLaw.pdf](https://email.state.ma.us/OWA/redir.aspx?REF=7zu5-gLoE3Ir50gXvIMU179ZnZXvSuB2GD5tnzrk-yltjGB0v4zYCAFodHRwczovL21hbGVnaXNsYXR1cmUuZ292L0NvbnRlbnQvRG9jdW1lbnRzL0hvd0FuSWRlYUJlY29tZXNMYXcvSG93QW5JZGVhQmVjb21lc0xhdy5wZGY.)

*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 Chairperson Betsy Ireland at* [*bookwormcu@gmail.com*](https://email.state.ma.us/OWA/redir.aspx?REF=GO4mBsQx3C9A19L0eNR8vl4fXvaMmn3rjZ-dsVNgxdBtjGB0v4zYCAFtYWlsdG86Ym9va3dvcm1jdUBnbWFpbC5jb20.)*.*