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

**Statewide Advisory Council Meeting**

**May 13, 2021**

**5:30 – 7:30 pm**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Participants:**  
Commissioner Opeoluwa Sotonwa, MCDHH

**SAC Members:**  
Brock Cordeiro   
Barbara Johnson  
Caitlin Parton  
Ellen Perkins  
Linda Sakin  
Lori Seidman  
Kerry Thompson

**Attendees from Community:**Suzann BedrosianMarlene Blackstone, ViAbility  
Sudan Bradley, MassRelay  
Diane Crouse, MCDHH  
Karin Eddy, MCDHH  
Emily Graves-Harrison, MCDHH  
Michael Herschberg  
Tricia Ford, MCDHH  
Ruth Moore, WMAD  
Sue Philip   
Shannon Silvestri, MCDHH  
Ivy Velez, DDS  
Aurora Wilber, MCDHH

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| **Agenda Topic** | **Discussion** | **Follow up/Person Responsible** |
| Welcome | * Communication Procedures * Introductions * Review of Agenda |  |
| Review of Minutes from:  March 11, 2021  April 8, 2021 | * Minutes approved. |  |
| Chairperson’s Report | * Thank you for the members that shared their biographies of SAC members. Members are not required to provide biographical information. * Recognition for 2020 Deaf and Hard of Hearing Constituents’ Day Awards. Options dependent on re-opening plans and mandates for group gatherings. * Congratulations to Deputy Commissioner Patricia Ford on her upcoming retirement from MCDHH. | Discussion deferred until June SAC meeting. |
| Commissioner’s Report | * Governor Baker announced that state employees will begin a return to work on June 1st. MCDHH will be strategizing a gradual return to in office work. Priority will be returning safely. A Future of Work plan is under development and will focus on access while reducing architectural space by 50%. * [35th Anniversary Awards](https://www.facebook.com/MCDHH.MA/videos/177759360899320) are accepting submissions. Awards will be awarded every five years. 1. BJ Wood Trailblazer award in honor of the first Commissioner of MCDHH. Community members are invited to submit nominations with a brief description of why the winner is worthy of recognition. 2. Gail Sallop Interpreter Award in recognition of the first MCDHH staff interpreter. Recognition will be for an interpreter displaying commitment to the Deaf community. 3. Lifetime Achievement Award for MCDHH staff. * May 12: Senate Ways and Means budget hearing. Current budget proposal has increased 5% (cost of living) to $7,563,540. Budget proposal includes $300,000 for Vlog creation and staff to support. $530,000 specifically for Workforce Development to expand CART and interpreter. Chapter 357 for DHILS support has a proposed 20% increase of $322,000. MCDHH collection for interpreter services remains capped at $450,000. | Deadline: June 10th.  Submissions via: <https://www.mass.gov/forms/contact-mcdhh-online> or emailing [ami.hanigan@mass.gov](mailto:ami.hanigan@mass.gov).  Posthumous nominations will be accepted. |
| New Business: 35th Anniversary | * Mid-late July planned virtual event for the 35th Celebration of MCDHH. Video will include portion from Governor Baker, Secretary of Health and Human Services Marylou Sudders, Commissioner Sotonwa and presentation of the three awards. * Year event will include various messages, vlogs and events. * Video project for recording the history of MCDHH’s establishment. MCDHH will work to create opportunities for recording community members for video products and also maintaining a video archive of MA history. * June 2022 wrap-up event will be an in-person event to close the year. | Sponsorship/exhibit space will be considered by the planning team.  SAC members will be requested to participate in events and Emcee the July 2021 event.  Questions and follow-up can be directed to [Hana Hanigan](mailto:ami.hanigan@mass.gov) and [Aurora Wilber](mailto:aurora.wilber@mass.gov). |
| Legislative Task Force Report | * 38 bills are being tracked. * #21 and 22 are related to Newborn Screening. * Goal will be to create a priority list of SAC bills for tracking, advocacy efforts and legislative follow-up. These bills would be shared with [Representative Donato](https://malegislature.gov/Legislators/Profile/PJD1/Bills) to connect SAC members with Speaker of the House [Ronald Mariano](https://malegislature.gov/Legislators/Profile/R_M1). * LEAD-K was sent to Senate oversight in the last session. Interpreter licensure and LEAD-K were both tabled to committee and not re-filed in the 192nd General Court. * Recommendation: match bill number for ease in follow-up; include the name of sponsor legislators. Information can be used to connect to sponsors and co-sponsors. | Bills of Interest at end of document.  By May 20th, SAC members should send their top 3 – 5 priority bills to [Brock Cordeiro](mailto:BNCordeiro@comcast.net?subject=SAC%20Bills%20of%20Interest). |
| Announcements | * May 26 and June 3: [Pathways for Change](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/working-with-deaf-and-hard-of-hearing-survivors-tickets-150085912003) webinar for Deaf Survivors of Violence. * MassRelay virtual Bingo event has confirmed ASL interpreters and CART. * [ViAbility](https://www.viability.org/careers) with two job postings, please assist with recruitment. | **ASL/English interpreters ARE confirmed for all dates.**  **Please note**:**CART is confirmed for May 12, May 26, and June 3**, but still pending for April 28 and June 17. |
| Next SAC Meeting | * June 10, 6:15 – 8:15 pm. * SAC “Bills of Interest” are at the end of these minutes (pg. 5 – 9.) | Any interested community members wanting SAC information can request to join the distribution list. Please email: [ami.hanigan@mass.gov](mailto:ami.hanigan@mass.gov).  SAC members with requests for additions to the future agendas should share these additions with [ami.hanigan@mass.gov](mailto:ami.hanigan@mass.gov). |

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| |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | **SAC #** | **Bill #** | **Bill Title** | **Committee** | **Action Date** | **Chamber** | **Last Action** | **Presenter** | **Notes** | **Docket #** | | **1** | [H.228](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/H228) | [An Act An act to eliminate disproportionality and inequities for at-risk children](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/H228) | [Joint Committee on Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities](https://malegislature.gov/Committees/Detail/J13/192) | April 13, 2021 | Senate | Senate concurred | [Higgins, Natalie M.](https://malegislature.gov/Legislators/Profile/N_H1) |  | [HD.3038](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/HD3038) | | **2** | [H.2370](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/H2370) | [An Act effectuating equity in COVID-19 vaccination](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/H2370) | [Joint Committee on Public Health](https://malegislature.gov/Committees/Detail/J16/192) | April 13, 2021 | Senate | Senate concurred | [Miranda, Liz](https://malegislature.gov/Legislators/Profile/L_M2) |  | [HD.1283](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/HD1283) | | **3** | [S.1515](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/S1515) | [An Act effectuating equity in COVID-19 vaccination](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/S1515) | [Joint Committee on Public Health](https://malegislature.gov/Committees/Detail/J16/192) | March 29, 2021 | House | House concurred | [Rausch, Rebecca L.](https://malegislature.gov/Legislators/Profile/RLR0) |  | [SD.699](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/SD699) | | **4** | [H.2143](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/H2143) | [An Act Enabling Municipal Pre-foreclosure Mediation](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/H2143) | [Joint Committee on Municipalities and Regional Government](https://malegislature.gov/Committees/Detail/J10/192) | April 13, 2021 | Senate | Senate concurred | [Capano, Peter](https://malegislature.gov/Legislators/Profile/PLC1) |  | [HD.3607](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/HD3607) | | **5** | [S.1954](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/S1954) | [An Act establishing a tax credit for the purchase of hearing aids](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/S1954) | [Joint Committee on Revenue](https://malegislature.gov/Committees/Detail/J26/192) | March 29, 2021 | House | House concurred | [O'Connor, Patrick M.](https://malegislature.gov/Legislators/Profile/PMO) |  | [SD.921](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/SD921) | | **6** | [H.1753](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/H1753) | [An Act increasing fair housing protections for domestic violence survivors](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/H1753) | [Joint Committee on the Judiciary](https://malegislature.gov/Committees/Detail/J19/192) | April 13, 2021 | Senate | Senate concurred | [Livingstone, Jay D.](https://malegislature.gov/Legislators/Profile/J_L1) |  | [HD.391](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/HD391) | | **7** | [H.723](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/H723) | [An Act increasing the penalties for unfair and deceptive actions perpetrated against persons with disabilities and senior citizens](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/H723) | [Joint Committee on Elder Affairs](https://malegislature.gov/Committees/Detail/J44/192) | April 13, 2021 | Senate | Senate concurred | [Ayers, Bruce J.](https://malegislature.gov/Legislators/Profile/BJA1) |  | [HD.1049](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/HD1049) | | **8** | [H.1711](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/H1711) | [An Act prohibiting discrimination against adults with disabilities in family and juvenile court proceedings](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/H1711) | [Joint Committee on the Judiciary](https://malegislature.gov/Committees/Detail/J19/192) | April 13, 2021 | Senate | Senate concurred | [Khan, Kay](https://malegislature.gov/Legislators/Profile/K_K1) |  | [HD.843](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/HD843) | | **9** | [S.1083](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/S1083) | [An Act prohibiting discrimination against adults with disabilities in family and juvenile court proceedings](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/S1083) | [Joint Committee on the Judiciary](https://malegislature.gov/Committees/Detail/J19/192) | March 29, 2021 | House | House concurred | [Lovely, Joan B.](https://malegislature.gov/Legislators/Profile/JBL0) |  | [SD.1770](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/SD1770) | | **10** | [H.1373](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/H1373) | [An Act promoting fair housing by preventing discrimination against affordable housing](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/H1373) | [Joint Committee on Housing](https://malegislature.gov/Committees/Detail/J28/192) | April 13, 2021 | Senate | Senate concurred | [Barber, Christine P.](https://malegislature.gov/Legislators/Profile/CPB2) |  | [HD.1990](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/HD1990) | | **11** | [S.867](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/S867) | [An Act promoting fair housing by preventing discrimination against affordable housing](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/S867) | [Joint Committee on Housing](https://malegislature.gov/Committees/Detail/J28/192) | March 29, 2021 | House | House concurred | [Chang-Diaz, Sonia](https://malegislature.gov/Legislators/Profile/SCD0) |  | [SD.2200](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/SD2200) | | **12** | [H.605](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/H605) | [An Act providing affordable and accessible high quality early education and care to promote child development and well-being and support the economy ...](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/H605) | [Joint Committee on Education](https://malegislature.gov/Committees/Detail/J14/192) | March 29, 2021 | House | House concurred | [Gordon, Kenneth I.](https://malegislature.gov/Legislators/Profile/KIG1) |  | [HD.1960](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/HD1960) | | **13** | [S.362](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/S362) | [An Act providing affordable and accessible high quality early education and care to promote child development and well-being and support the economy ...](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/S362) | [Joint Committee on Education](https://malegislature.gov/Committees/Detail/J14/192) | March 29, 2021 | House | House concurred | [Lewis, Jason M.](https://malegislature.gov/Legislators/Profile/jml0) |  | [SD.1307](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/SD1307) | | **14** | [S.681](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/S681) | [An Act providing coverage for hearing aids](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/S681) | [Joint Committee on Financial Services](https://malegislature.gov/Committees/Detail/J11/192) | March 29, 2021 | House | House concurred | [Hinds, Adam G.](https://malegislature.gov/Legislators/Profile/AGH0) |  | [SD.1225](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/SD1225) | | **15** | [S.1420](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/S1420) | [An Act relative to accessible prescription labeling](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/S1420) | [Referred to Joint Committee on Public Health](https://malegislature.gov/Committees/Detail/J16/192) | March 29, 2021 | House | House concurred | [DiZoglio, Diana](https://malegislature.gov/Legislators/Profile/D_D0) | Presenting Legislator is not a sponsor of this measure | [SD.89](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/SD89) | | **16** | [H.1074](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/H1074) | [An Act relative to children's auditory health](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/H1074) | [Joint Committee on Financial Services](https://malegislature.gov/Committees/Detail/J11/192) | April 13, 2021 | Senate | Senate concurred | [Durant, Peter J.](https://malegislature.gov/Legislators/Profile/PJD2) |  | [HD.303](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/HD303) | | **17** | [H.2761](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/H2761) | [An Act relative to employment benefits of certain employees of the Department of Developmental Services](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/H2761) | [Joint Committee on Public Service](https://malegislature.gov/Committees/Detail/J23/192) | April 13, 2021 | Senate | Senate concurred | [Ramos, Orlando](https://malegislature.gov/Legislators/Profile/O_R1) |  | [HD.2317](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/HD2317) | | **18** | [S.1009](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/S1009) | [An Act relative to juvenile violence](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/S1009) | [Joint Committee on the Judiciary](https://malegislature.gov/Committees/Detail/J19/192) | March 29, 2021 | House | House concurred | [DiZoglio, Diana](https://malegislature.gov/Legislators/Profile/D_D0) | Presenting Legislator is not a sponsor of this measure | [SD.85](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/SD85) | | **19** | [H.3199](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/H3199) | [An Act Relative to Language Access and Inclusion](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/H3199) | [Joint Committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight](https://malegislature.gov/Committees/Detail/J25/192) | April 13, 2021 | Senate | Senate concurred | [Madaro, Adrian C.](https://malegislature.gov/Legislators/Profile/ACM1) |  | [HD.3674](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/HD3674) | | **20** | [S.2040](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/S2040) | [An Act relative to language access and inclusion](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/S2040) | [Joint Committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight](https://malegislature.gov/Committees/Detail/J25/192) | March 29, 2021 | House | House concurred | [DiDomenico, Sal N.](https://malegislature.gov/Legislators/Profile/SND0) |  | [SD.2251](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/SD2251) | | **21** | [H.2338](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/H2338) | [An Act relative to newborn screenings for congenital cytomegalovirus](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/H2338) | [Joint Committee on Public Health](https://malegislature.gov/Committees/Detail/J16/192) | April 22, 2021 | Joint | Hearing scheduled for 05/03/2021 from 01:00 PM-05:00 PM in Virtual Hearing | [Khan, Kay](https://malegislature.gov/Legislators/Profile/K_K1) |  | [HD.2583](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/HD2583) | | **22** | [S.1471](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/S1471) | [An Act relative to newborn screenings for congenital cytomegalovirus](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/S1471) | [Joint Committee on Public Health](https://malegislature.gov/Committees/Detail/J16/192) | April 22, 2021 | Joint | Hearing scheduled for 05/03/2021 from 01:00 PM-05:00 PM in Virtual Hearing | [Lovely, Joan B.](https://malegislature.gov/Legislators/Profile/JBL0) |  | [SD.1810](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/SD1810) | | **23** | [H.3398](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/H3398) | [An Act relative to providing improved access to taxicabs for persons with disabilities](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/H3398) | [Joint Committee on Transportation](https://malegislature.gov/Committees/Detail/J27/192) | April 13, 2021 | Senate | Senate concurred | [Ayers, Bruce J.](https://malegislature.gov/Legislators/Profile/BJA1) |  | [HD.1085](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/HD1085) | | **24** | [S.2032](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/S2032) | [An Act relative to removing the term hearing impaired from the general laws](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/S2032) | [Joint Committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight](https://malegislature.gov/Committees/Detail/J25/192) | March 29, 2021 | House | House concurred | [Creem, Cynthia Stone](https://malegislature.gov/Legislators/Profile/CSC0) |  | [SD.299](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/SD299) | | **25** | [S.1844](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/S1844) | [An Act relative to tax abatements for deaf residents](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/S1844) | [Joint Committee on Revenue](https://malegislature.gov/Committees/Detail/J26/192) | March 29, 2021 | House | House concurred | [DiZoglio, Diana](https://malegislature.gov/Legislators/Profile/D_D0) |  | [SD.64](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/SD64) | | **26** | [H.1101](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/H1101) | [An Act Relative to Telehealth and Digital Equity for Patients](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/H1101) | [Joint Committee on Financial Services](https://malegislature.gov/Committees/Detail/J11/192) | April 13, 2021 | Senate | Senate concurred | [Golden, Jr., Thomas A.](https://malegislature.gov/Legislators/Profile/TAG1) |  | [HD.2533](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/HD2533) | | **27** | [S.678](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/S678) | [An Act relative to telehealth and digital equity for patients](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/S678) | [Joint Committee on Financial Services](https://malegislature.gov/Committees/Detail/J11/192) | April 13, 2021 | Senate | Senate concurred | [Gomez, Adam](https://malegislature.gov/Legislators/Profile/A_G0) |  | [SD.2099](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/SD2099) | | **28** | [H.552](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/H552) | [An Act relative to the training, assessment, and assignment of qualified school interpreters in educational settings](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/H552) | [Joint Committee on Education](https://malegislature.gov/Committees/Detail/J14/192) | April 13, 2021 | Senate | Senate concurred | [Cabral, Antonio F. D.](https://malegislature.gov/Legislators/Profile/AFC1) |  | [HD.1883](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/HD1883) | | **29** | [S.303](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/S303) | [An Act relative to the training, assessment, and assignment of qualified school interpreters in educational settings](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/S303) | [Joint Committee on Education](https://malegislature.gov/Committees/Detail/J14/192) | March 29, 2021 | House | House concurred | [Crighton, Brendan P.](https://malegislature.gov/Legislators/Profile/BPC0) |  | [SD.392](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/SD392) | | **30** | [H.1217](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/H1217) | [An Act requiring reimbursement for the costs of providing competent interpreter services](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/H1217) | [Joint Committee on Financial Services](https://malegislature.gov/Committees/Detail/J11/192) | April 13, 2021 | Senate | Senate concurred | [Cassidy, Gerard J.](https://malegislature.gov/Legislators/Profile/G_C2) |  | [HD.2519](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/HD2519) | | **31** | [S.139](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/S139) | [An Act to eliminate disproportionality and inequities for at-risk children](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/S139) | [Joint Committee on Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities](https://malegislature.gov/Committees/Detail/J13/192) | March 29, 2021 | House | House concurred | [Moran, Susan L.](https://malegislature.gov/Legislators/Profile/SLM0) |  | [SD.1766](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/SD1766) | | **32** | [H.1736](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/H1736) | [An Act to enhance safety and security in courthouses](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/H1736) | [Joint Committee on the Judiciary](https://malegislature.gov/Committees/Detail/J19/192) | April 13, 2021 | Senate | Senate concurred | [Linsky, David Paul](https://malegislature.gov/Legislators/Profile/DPL1) |  | [HD.155](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/HD155) | | **33** | [S.414](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/S414) | [An Act to ensure quality of care in nursing homes](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/S414) | [Joint Committee on Elder Affairs](https://malegislature.gov/Committees/Detail/J44/192) | March 29, 2021 | House | House concurred | [Jehlen, Patricia D.](https://malegislature.gov/Legislators/Profile/PDJ0) |  | [SD.1844](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/SD1844) | | **34** | [H.727](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/H727) | [An Act to ensure the quality of care in nursing homes](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/H727) | [Joint Committee on Elder Affairs](https://malegislature.gov/Committees/Detail/J44/192) | April 13, 2021 | Senate | Senate concurred | [Balser, Ruth B.](https://malegislature.gov/Legislators/Profile/RBB1) |  | [HD.2981](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/HD2981) | | **35** | [H.416](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/H416) | [An Act to provide increased access to hearing aids](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/H416) | [Joint Committee on Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure](https://malegislature.gov/Committees/Detail/J17/192) | April 13, 2021 | Senate | Senate concurred | [Kelcourse, James M.](https://malegislature.gov/Legislators/Profile/JMK1) |  | [HD.2938](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/HD2938) | | **36** | [H.366](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/H366) | [An Act to provide increased access to hearing aids](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/H366) | [Joint Committee on Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure](https://malegislature.gov/Committees/Detail/J17/192) | April 13, 2021 | Senate | Senate concurred | [Fiola, Carole A.](https://malegislature.gov/Legislators/Profile/CAF1) |  | [HD.535](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/HD535) | | **37** | [S.192](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/S192) | [An Act to provide increased access to hearing aids](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/S192) | [Joint Committee on Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure](https://malegislature.gov/Committees/Detail/J17/192) | March 29, 2021 | House | House concurred | [DiZoglio, Diana](https://malegislature.gov/Legislators/Profile/D_D0) |  | [SD.13](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/SD13) | | **38** | [S.211](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/S211) | [An Act to provide increased access to hearing aids](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/S211) | [Joint Committee on Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure](https://malegislature.gov/Committees/Detail/J17/192) | March 29, 2021 | House | House concurred | [Hinds, Adam G.](https://malegislature.gov/Legislators/Profile/AGH0) |  | [SD.2047](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/SD2047) | |  |  |
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