

SB1084/553826/1

BY: Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

AMENDMENTS TO SENATE BILL 1084
(First Reading File Bill)

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 1, in line 2, strike “**State Government – Commission**” and substitute “**Workgroup**”; in the same line, after “**Hearing**” insert “ – **Established**”; in lines 3 and 7, in each instance, strike “Commission” and substitute “Workgroup”; strike beginning with “as” in line 4 down through “for” in line 6 and substitute “to study and make recommendations regarding certain services, programs, advocacy, outreach efforts, and other items to improve the quality of life of”; and strike in their entirety lines 9 through 14, inclusive.

AMENDMENT NO. 2

On page 1, in line 16, strike “the Laws of Maryland read as follows”.

On pages 1 through 6, strike in their entirety the lines beginning with line 17 on page 1 through line 10 on page 6, inclusive; after line 10, insert:

“(a) There is a Workgroup for the Deaf, Deafblind, and Hard of Hearing.

(b) (1) The Workgroup consists of the following members:

(i) one member of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President of the Senate;

(ii) one member of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of the House;

(iii) the Director of the Office of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, or the Director’s designee; and

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(iv) 10 community representatives of State or local nonprofit organizations for deaf, deafblind, and hard of hearing individuals in the State or the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area, appointed by the Governor.

(2) To the extent practicable, when appointing members to the Workgroup, the Governor shall ensure geographic balance and promote racial and gender diversity in the Workgroup's membership.

(c) The members of the Workgroup shall elect a chair from among the members of the Workgroup.

(d) The Office of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing shall provide staff for the Workgroup.

(e) The Workgroup shall:

(1) establish subcommittees as necessary to fulfill its duties; and

(2) assign members as necessary to assist in the research and preparation of the report submitted under subsection (h) of this section.

(f) A member of the Workgroup:

(1) may not receive compensation as a member of the Workgroup; but

(2) is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard State Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.

(g) The Workgroup shall study, assess, and make recommendations regarding:

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(1) providing direct and specialized case management services for deaf, deafblind, and hard of hearing individuals;

(2) the development and administration of programs that support educational, employment, health, and social opportunities for deaf, deafblind, and hard of hearing individuals;

(3) advocacy for policies, programs, and legislative initiatives that address the needs of and issues affecting deaf, deafblind, and hard of hearing individuals;

(4) outreach efforts to raise public awareness and foster understanding of the challenges encountered by deaf, deafblind, and hard of hearing individuals;

(5) coordination with State agencies and utilization of State resources to provide specialized case management services to meet the needs of deaf, deafblind, and hard of hearing individuals;

(6) identification of barriers and gaps in communication access and development of solutions to improve the quality of life of deaf, deafblind, and hard of hearing individuals; and

(7) development of activities to enhance civic engagement between deaf, deafblind, and hard of hearing individuals and the community.

(h) On or before June 1, 2025, the Workgroup shall submit a report of its findings and recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1257 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly.”;

in line 12, strike “October” and substitute “July”; and in the same line, after “2024.” insert “It shall remain effective for a period of 2 years and, at the end of June 30, 2026,

(Over)

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this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.”.