

LEGISLATIVE BILL 250

Approved by the Governor May 15, 1981

Introduced by Labeledz, 5

AN ACT to amend sections 71-4720, 71-4724 to 71-4726, 71-4728, and 71-4729, Revised Statutes Supplement, 1980, relating to the Commission for the Hearing Impaired; to change certain terms; to change procedures for holding meetings and electing officers; to provide duties as prescribed; and to repeal the original sections.

Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

Section 1. That section 71-4720, Revised Statutes Supplement, 1980, be amended to read as follows:

71-4720. There is hereby created the Commission for the Hearing Impaired which shall consist of nine members to be appointed by the Governor subject to approval by the Legislature. The members of the commission shall be appointed within thirty days of August 24, 1979. Six of the members of the commission shall be hearing impaired and all members shall be familiar with the problems of the hearing impaired community in the State of Nebraska. At least four of the six hearing impaired members shall know manual communication. When appointing members to the commission, the Governor shall consider recommendations provided by the Nebraska Association of the Hearing Impaired Deaf. As used in sections 71-4720 to 71-4732, unless the context otherwise requires, commission shall mean the Commission for the Hearing Impaired.

Sec. 2. That section 71-4724, Revised Statutes Supplement, 1980, be amended to read as follows:

71-4724. The commission shall hold at least six four meetings a year, at a time and place fixed by the commission and shall keep a record of its proceedings, which shall be open to the public for inspection. The commission shall make rules for the holding of special meetings. Written notice of the time and place of all meetings shall be mailed in advance to the office of each member of the commission by the secretary. Six of the members of the commission shall constitute a quorum.

Sec. 3. That section 71-4725, Revised Statutes Supplement, 1980, be amended to read as follows:

71-4725. The commission shall annually every two years elect from its members a chairperson, vice-chairperson, and a secretary who may hold the same office for a period of not more than four years or until a successor is elected. The vice-chairperson shall serve as chairperson in case of the absence or disability of the chairperson.

Sec. 4. That section 71-4726, Revised Statutes Supplement, 1980, be amended to read as follows:

71-4726. The commission shall appoint a qualified person to serve as executive director who shall ~~serve at the pleasure~~ with the advice and consent of the commission. When appointing an executive director preference may be given to a hearing impaired person.

Sec. 5. That section 71-4728, Revised Statutes Supplement, 1980, be amended to read as follows:

71-4728. The commission shall serve as the principal state agency responsible for advocating public policies and programs which shall improve the quality and coordination of existing services for the hearing impaired and promote the development of new services when necessary. To perform this function the commission shall:

(1) Inventory services available for meeting the problems of the hearing impaired and assist hearing impaired persons in locating and securing such services;

(2) Maintain Prepare and maintain a statewide list of persons qualified in various types of interpreting and make this information available to local, state, federal, and private organizations and to any interested person;

(3) Promote the training of interpreters for the hearing impaired;

(4) Provide counseling to hearing impaired persons or refer such persons to private or governmental agencies which provide counseling services;

(5) Conduct a voluntary census of hearing impaired persons in Nebraska and compile a current registry;

(6) Promote expanded adult educational opportunities for hearing impaired persons;

(7) Serve as an agency for the collection of information concerning the hearing impaired and for the dispensing of such information to interested persons by collecting studies, compiling bibliographies, gathering information, and conducting research with respect to the education, training, counseling, placement, and social and economic adjustment of the hearing impaired and with respect to the causes, diagnosis, treatment, and methods of prevention of impaired hearing;

(8) Appoint advisory or special committees when appropriate for in-depth investigations and study of particular problems and receive reports of findings and recommendations;

(9) Evaluate Assess and monitor programs for services to the hearing impaired and make recommendations to those state agencies providing such services regarding changes necessary to improve the quality and coordination of the services;

(10) Make recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature with respect to modification in existing services or establishment of additional services for hearing impaired persons; and

(11) ~~Serve as an advocate for~~ Promote awareness and understanding of the rights of hearing impaired persons.

Sec. 6. That section 71-4729, Revised Statutes Supplement, 1980, be amended to read as follows:

71-4729. The commission shall in fulfilling its responsibilities enumerated in section 71-4728 cooperate with ~~the State Department of Education and~~ any other state agency having authority related to the problems of hearing impaired persons. Such agencies are also directed to cooperate with the commission. Avoidance of unnecessary duplication of state-delivered services to the hearing impaired shall be a primary objective of such cooperation.

Sec. 7. That original sections 71-4720, 71-4724 to 71-4726, 71-4728, and 71-4729, Revised Statutes Supplement, 1980, are repealed.