

SENATE AMENDMENT NO. _____

Offered by _____ Of _____

Amend SS/Senate Bill No. 1062, Page 1, Section A, Line 3,

2 by inserting after all of said lines the following:

3 "209.247. 1. As used in this section, the following
4 terms mean:

5 (1) "Commission", the Missouri commission for the deaf
6 and hard of hearing;

7 (2) "Communication access services", shall include,
8 but not be limited to, the following:

9 (a) Qualified interpreters, as described in section
10 209.285;

11 (b) Communication access realtime translation services;

12 (c) Notetakers, visual or Braille boards, and visual
13 video services;

14 (d) Open and closed captioning services;

15 (e) Environmental access support for the deaf-blind
16 and those with low vision; and

17 (f) Any other effective method of making aurally
18 delivered and printed information available to individuals
19 who are deaf, deaf-blind, or hard of hearing;

20 (3) "Communication access service provider", an
21 individual who is trained to offer a communication access
22 service to communicate aurally delivered and printed
23 information to individuals who are deaf, deaf-blind, or hard
24 of hearing.

25 2. The commission shall establish a statewide
26 communication access services program to improve compliance
27 with the federal Americans with Disabilities Act for
28 agencies and businesses by coordinating resources, filling
29 service gaps, and assisting with costs related to
30 accommodations. The commission shall:

31 (1) Develop and maintain a statewide registry of
32 communication access service providers, organized by region,
33 including rural and urban areas;

34 (2) Create a process for communication access service
35 providers to apply for placement on the registry;

36 (3) Establish minimum standards for training,
37 equipment, and technology;

38 (4) Maintain an informational website accessible by
39 businesses, agencies, and individuals who are deaf, deaf-
40 blind, or hard of hearing regarding resources and available
41 programming;

42 (5) Provide consultation, training, and technical
43 assistance to aid state and local agencies to be in
44 compliance with the federal Americans with Disabilities Act;

45 (6) Provide information regarding available resources
46 to assist with compliance costs and to support potential
47 communication access service providers in underserved areas;

48 (7) Conduct outreach activities for urban or rural
49 residents and communication access service providers to
50 expand awareness and capacity in underserved areas;

51 (8) Subject to appropriation, administer scholarships
52 for professional development, internships, and certification
53 testing;

54 (9) Subject to appropriation and pursuant to rules
55 promulgated under this section, administer and finance
56 requests for communication access services between agencies

57 and businesses and individuals who are deaf, deaf-blind, or
58 hard of hearing;

59 (10) Hire a program manager to serve at the pleasure
60 of the director of the commission. The program manager
61 shall have a background and experience in communication
62 access services. The salary for the program manager shall
63 be paid out of the fund established in subsection 3 of this
64 section; and

65 (11) Submit an annual report to the governor and the
66 general assembly that includes information on communication
67 access service utilization, registry effectiveness, funding
68 outcomes, and recommendations for improvement.

69 3. (1) There is hereby created in the state treasury
70 the "Communication Access Services Fund", which shall
71 consist of moneys appropriated to the fund and any gifts,
72 donations, grants, and bequests from individuals, private
73 organizations, foundations, or other sources for the purpose
74 of administering the program established in this section.
75 The state treasurer shall be the custodian of the fund. In
76 accordance with sections 30.170 and 30.180, the state
77 treasurer may approve disbursements. The fund shall be a
78 dedicated fund and, upon appropriation, moneys in the fund
79 shall be used by the commission for the salary of the
80 program manager, distribution of financial assistance for
81 communication access services, and distribution of
82 scholarships under this section.

83 (2) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 33.080
84 to the contrary, any moneys remaining in the fund at the end
85 of the biennium shall not revert to the credit of the
86 general revenue fund.

87 (3) The state treasurer shall invest moneys in the
88 fund in the same manner as other funds are invested. Any

89 interest and moneys earned on such investments shall be
90 credited to the fund.

91 4. The commission shall promulgate rules to implement
92 the provisions of this section, including the process for
93 distributing scholarships under subdivision (8) of
94 subsection 2 of this section and determining eligibility for
95 financial assistance under subdivision (9) of subsection 2
96 of this section. Any rule or portion of a rule, as that
97 term is defined in section 536.010, that is created under
98 the authority delegated in this section shall become
99 effective only if it complies with and is subject to all of
100 the provisions of chapter 536 and, if applicable, section
101 536.028. This section and chapter 536 are nonseverable and
102 if any of the powers vested with the general assembly
103 pursuant to chapter 536 to review, to delay the effective
104 date, or to disapprove and annul a rule are subsequently
105 held unconstitutional, then the grant of rulemaking
106 authority and any rule proposed or adopted after August 28,
107 2026, shall be invalid and void."; and

108 Further amend the title and enacting clause accordingly.