

SENATE AMENDMENT NO. _____

Offered by _____ Of _____

Amend SS/Senate Bill No. 1062, Page 1, Section TITLE, Lines 3-5,

2 by striking "a single public-private, community-based, and
3 faith-based assistance program" and inserting in lieu

4 thereof the following: "public assistance programs"; and

5 Further amend said bill and page, section A, line 3, by
6 inserting after all of said line the following:

7 "209.247. 1. As used in this section, the following
8 terms mean:

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

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

13 (a) Qualified interpreters, as described in section
14 209.285;

15 (b) Communication access realtime translation services;

16 (c) Notetakers, visual or Braille boards, and visual
17 video services;

18 (d) Open and closed captioning services;

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

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

24 (3) "Communication access service provider", an
25 individual who is trained to offer a communication access

26 service to communicate aurally delivered and printed
27 information to individuals who are deaf, deaf-blind, or hard
28 of hearing.

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

35 (1) Develop and maintain a statewide registry of
36 communication access service providers, organized by region,
37 including rural and urban areas;

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

40 (3) Establish minimum standards for training,
41 equipment, and technology;

42 (4) Maintain an informational website accessible by
43 businesses, agencies, and individuals who are deaf, deaf-
44 blind, or hard of hearing regarding resources and available
45 programming;

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

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

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

55 (8) Subject to appropriation, administer scholarships
56 for professional development, internships, and certification
57 testing;

58 (9) Subject to appropriation and pursuant to rules
59 promulgated under this section, administer and finance
60 requests for communication access services between agencies
61 and businesses and individuals who are deaf, deaf-blind, or
62 hard of hearing;

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

69 (11) Submit an annual report to the governor and the
70 general assembly that includes information on communication
71 access service utilization, registry effectiveness, funding
72 outcomes, and recommendations for improvement.

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

87 (2) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 33.080
88 to the contrary, any moneys remaining in the fund at the end
89 of the biennium shall not revert to the credit of the
90 general revenue fund.

91 (3) The state treasurer shall invest moneys in the
92 fund in the same manner as other funds are invested. Any
93 interest and moneys earned on such investments shall be
94 credited to the fund.

95 4. The commission shall promulgate rules to implement
96 the provisions of this section, including the process for
97 distributing scholarships under subdivision (8) of
98 subsection 2 of this section and determining eligibility for
99 financial assistance under subdivision (9) of subsection 2
100 of this section. Any rule or portion of a rule, as that
101 term is defined in section 536.010, that is created under
102 the authority delegated in this section shall become
103 effective only if it complies with and is subject to all of
104 the provisions of chapter 536 and, if applicable, section
105 536.028. This section and chapter 536 are nonseverable and
106 if any of the powers vested with the general assembly
107 pursuant to chapter 536 to review, to delay the effective
108 date, or to disapprove and annul a rule are subsequently
109 held unconstitutional, then the grant of rulemaking
110 authority and any rule proposed or adopted after August 28,
111 2026, shall be invalid and void."; and

112 Further amend the title and enacting clause accordingly.