CONFIDENTIAL

AHS LEGISLATIVE BILL REVIEW FORM: 2015

Bill Number:__S.66 *Draft*___ Name of Bill: An Act relating to persons who are Deaf, DeafBlind or Hard of Hearing

Agency/ Dept: DAIL Author of Bill Review: Monica Caserta Hutt

Date of Bill Review: 4/4/16 Related Bills and Key Players _____

Status of Bill: (check one): _____Upon Introduction __X___ As passed by 1st body _____As passed by both

---

Recommended Position:

__X___Support _____Oppose _____Remain Neutral _____Support with modifications identified in #8 below

---

Analysis of Bill

---

1. **Summary of bill and issue it addresses.** *Describe what the bill is intended to accomplish and why.*

S. 66 s re-drafted primarily creates a Vermont Deaf, Hard of Hearing, DeafBlind Advisory Council to "promote diversity, equality, awareness, and access among individuals who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing or DeafBlind". The Council would have membership appointed by the Governor and is charged with making recommendations related to the services, resources and opportunities available to children, adults and elders who are deaf, hard of hearing or deafblind.

2. **Is there a need for this bill?** *Please explain why or why not.*

Yes, with the closure of the Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Vermont needs a more centralized approach to services and a more centralized approach to the assessment of need and advocacy for appropriate and reasonable approaches. This Advisory Council could fulfill that role.

3. **What are likely to be the fiscal and programmatic implications of this bill for this Department?**

Programmatically, there is a benefit to an Advisory group working with the Department to improve services and service delivery. It also creates strong partnership between DAIL, VDH, DCF and with the Agency of Education. There would be some financial obligations for DAIL, AHS, VDH and AOE related to advisory council stipends and interpreter costs.

4. **What might be the fiscal and programmatic implications of this bill for other departments in state government, and what is likely to be their perspective on it?**

   As stated above- other Departments, the Agency and AOE are funding those two costs now and all seem inclined and willing to continue.

5. **What might be the fiscal and programmatic implications of this bill for others, and what is likely to be their perspective on it?** (f*or example, public, municipalities, organizations, business, regulated entities, etc)*

Please return this bill review as a Microsoft Word document to Katie Whitney in the AHS Secretary's Office.

6. **Other Stakeholders:**

   6.1 Who else is likely to support the proposal and why? Stakeholders in the Deaf community, stakeholders in the Hard of Hearing and DeafBlind community; the Association for the Deaf; AHS; AOE

   6.2 Who else is likely to oppose the proposal and why?

7. **Rationale for recommendation:** *Justify recommendation stated above.*

   As stated above, this Council could provide coordination and central place for review and recommendations.

8. **Specific modifications that would be needed to recommend support of this bill***:* *Not meant to rewrite bill, but rather, an opportunity to identify simple modifications that would change recommended position.*

9. **Gubernatorial appointments to board or commission?**
   Yes, this bill does create a new Gubernatorial Advisory Council.

Secretary/Commissioner has reviewed this document: _Monica Caserta Hutt_____ Date: _4/4/16_____

Please return this bill review as a Microsoft Word document to Katie Whitney in the AHS Secretary's Office.