

CONFIDENTIAL
LEGISLATIVE BILL REVIEW FORM: 2016

Bill Number: S. 66 **Name of Bill:** An act relating to persons who are Deaf, DeafBlind, or Hard of Hearing

Agency/ Dept: Education **Author of Bill Review:** Karin Edwards/Cindy Moran

Date of Bill Review: May 10, 2016 **Related Bills and Key Players** _____

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

Recommended Position:

Support Oppose Remain Neutral Support with modifications identified in #8 below

Analysis of Bill

Summary of bill and issue it addresses. This bill creates a Vermont Deaf, Hard of Hearing and DeafBlind Advisory Council. The Council will promote diversity, equality, awareness, and access among individuals who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing, or DeafBlind, and will include a diverse group that will include public members who have hearing impairment, interpreters, counselors, a school superintendent, a special education administrator and others including the Secretary of Education, Secretary of Human Services, or their selected designee.

- 1. Is there a need for this bill?** Yes. The advisory council will assess the services, resources and opportunities available to children who are deaf, hard of hearing, or deafblind in the state and may make appropriate recommendations to the legislature. This has the potential to improve opportunities and services for the population the council is concerned with.
- 2. What are likely to be the fiscal and programmatic implications of this bill for this Department?** The Agency of Education, Department of Health, and Department of Disabilities, Aging and Independent Living shall share costs for interpreting services, CART, or FM listening systems necessary to conduct all Advisory Council subcommittee meetings. The creation of the advisory council allows for a look at supports and services across the lifespan.
- 3. 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?** Members of the Advisory Council who are not State employees or otherwise compensated or reimbursed for their attendance shall be entitled to per diem compensation and reimbursement of expenses pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 1010, payable by the Department of Health. The Agency of Human Services shall pay for interpreting services, CART, or FM listening systems necessary to conduct all Advisory Council meetings.
- 4. What might be the fiscal and programmatic implications of this bill for others, and what is likely to be their perspective on it?** The advisory council may make recommendations to the legislature that are not supported by state agencies or education. If the recommendations are acted on by the legislature there could be human and fiscal resources that are required.

Please return this bill review as a Microsoft Word document to Jahala.Dudley@vermont.gov & Jessica.Mishaan@vermont.gov

5. Other Stakeholders:

5.1 Who else is likely to support the proposal and why?

Advocacy community

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

Depending on recommendations the advisory council makes there could be opposition from state agencies and education.

6. Rationale for recommendation: Vermont is a small rural state and wants to support students who are deaf, hard of hearing, or deafblind. Council members may make recommendations based on research and data collected by all internal and external members. This collaborative group will work together to improve services for this population of students and adults in Vermont.

7. Specific modifications that would be needed to recommend support of this bill: None

- **Will this bill create a new board or commission AND/OR add or remove appointees to an existing one? If so, which one and how many?** Creation of an advisory council to promote diversity, equality, awareness, and access among individuals who are Deaf, HOH or DeafBlind. Sixteen members appointed by the Governor- 9 of them must be Deaf or HOH or Deafblind

Secretary/Commissioner has reviewed this document: _____



Date: 5/11/16