

Original sponsor(s): REP. BOUCHER, Hudson

1 IN THE HOUSE BY THE HESS COMMITTEE

2 CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 389 (HESS)

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 SIXTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5 A BILL

6 For an Act entitled: "An Act establishing a Task Force for the Deaf and
7 Hard of Hearing; and providing for an effective
8 date."

9 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

10 * Section 1. TASK FORCE FOR THE DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING. (a) The
11 Task Force for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing is created in the Department of
12 Administration.

13 (b) The task force consists of seven members appointed by the gover-
14 nor. Four members shall be deaf or hard of hearing persons, one member
15 shall be a parent of a deaf or hard of hearing person, one member shall be
16 an officer or employee of a private or municipal organization that provides
17 services to deaf or hard of hearing persons, and one member shall be an
18 employee of a state agency that provides services to deaf or hard of hear-
19 ing persons. The governor shall request and consider recommendations from
20 the Alaska Association of the Deaf before appointing members to the task
21 force.

22 (c) The Task Force, by majority vote of the membership, shall elect a
23 chair and other officers it considers necessary from among its membership.

24 (d) Members of the task force serve without compensation, but are
25 entitled to per diem and travel expenses authorized for boards and commis-
26 sions under AS 39.20.180.

27 * Sec. 2. POWERS OF THE TASK FORCE. The task force may

28 (1) ascertain the extent and availability of services to deaf
29 and hard of hearing persons within the state and recommend improvements to

1 the accessibility and quality of those services and the development of new
2 services when necessary;

3 (2) make recommendations that will advocate, provide, and coor-
4 dinate adoption of public policies, regulations, and programs to advance
5 the interests of deaf and hard of hearing persons;

6 (3) recommend methods to promote public awareness of deaf and
7 hard of hearing persons and their contributions to society;

8 (4) work with the Department of Education, the Board of Regents
9 of the University of Alaska, local school districts, and other public and
10 private entities to encourage ongoing interpreter education programs de-
11 signed to increase the number of qualified and competent interpreters for
12 deaf and hard of hearing persons in the state;

13 (5) obtain equipment, including TTY machines, and services,
14 including interpreter services, that are necessary for the task force to
15 exercise its powers under this Act.

16 * Sec. 3. REPORT. The task force shall report its findings and rec-
17 ommendations to the governor and the legislature on or before June 30,
18 1991.

19 * Sec. 4. DEFINITIONS. In secs 1 - 4 of this Act

20 (1) "deaf" means subject to a loss of the ability to hear and
21 understand speech so that the primary mode of communication is through
22 American Sign Language, speech reading, gestures, or writing;

23 (2) "hard of hearing" means subject to a partial loss of hearing
24 in one or both ears that results in difficulty in hearing and understanding
25 speech in the ear;

26 (3) "task force" means the Task Force for the Deaf and Hard of
27 Hearing.

28 * Sec. 5. This Act is repealed June 30, 1991.

29 * Sec. 6. This Act takes effect July 1, 1990.