

**DIVISION ON DEAFNESS ACT**  
**Act 72 of 1937**

AN ACT to establish the division on deafness and the advisory council on deafness within the department of labor; to prescribe the powers and duties of the department, the division, the council, and certain state officers; to establish a fund and provide for expenditures from that fund; and to provide for an appropriation.

**History:** 1937, Act 72, Eff. Oct. 29, 1937;—Am. 1988, Act 434, Eff. Mar. 30, 1989.

*The People of the State of Michigan enact:*

**408.201 Short title.**

Sec. 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the “division on deafness act”.

**History:** 1937, Act 72, Eff. Oct. 29, 1937;—CL 1948, 408.201;—Am. 1988, Act 434, Eff. Mar. 30, 1989.

**Compiler's note:** For transfer of powers and duties of the commission on disability concerns established in Executive Order 1995-11 from the department of labor to the family independence agency, see E.R.O. No. 1996-2, compiled at MCL 445.2001 of the Michigan Compiled Laws.

For transfer of the advisory council on deaf and hard of hearing from the family independence agency to the department of labor and economic growth by type II transfer, see E.R.O. No. 2003-1, compiled at MCL 445.2011.

**408.202 Definitions.**

Sec. 2. As used in this act:

(a) “Council” means the advisory council on deafness established in section 5.

(b) “Deaf person” means a person whose hearing is totally impaired or whose hearing, with or without amplification, is so seriously impaired that the primary means of receiving spoken language is through other sensory input, including, but not limited to, lipreading, sign language, finger spelling, and reading.

(c) “Department” means the department of labor.

(d) “Division” means the division on deafness established in section 3.

(e) “Hearing impaired person” means a person who has a degree of hearing loss that ranges from mild to profound. Hearing impaired person includes a deaf person.

**History:** 1937, Act 72, Eff. Oct. 29, 1937;—CL 1948, 408.202;—Am. 1988, Act 434, Eff. Mar. 30, 1989.

**Compiler's note:** For transfer of the advisory council on deaf and hard of hearing from the family independence agency to the department of labor and economic growth by type II transfer, see E.R.O. No. 2003-1, compiled at MCL 445.2011.

**408.203 Division on deafness; establishment; purpose; appointment and qualifications of director.**

Sec. 3. (1) The division on deafness is established within the department. The purpose of the office is to protect and assist all hearing impaired persons, with special emphasis on deaf persons.

(2) The division shall be supervised by a director of the division who shall be appointed by the director of labor. The director of the division shall be a member of the classified state civil service, hold not less than a bachelor's degree, be fluent in American sign language, and have the ability to communicate in various ways with deaf persons.

**History:** 1937, Act 72, Eff. Oct. 29, 1937;—CL 1948, 408.203;—Am. 1988, Act 434, Eff. Mar. 30, 1989.

**Compiler's note:** For transfer of the advisory council on deaf and hard of hearing from the family independence agency to the department of labor and economic growth by type II transfer, see E.R.O. No. 2003-1, compiled at MCL 445.2011.

**408.204 Duties of division; fees.**

Sec. 4. (1) Under the supervision of the department, the division shall do all of the following:

(a) Advocate for hearing impaired persons who encounter communication and other difficulties in employment, education, public accommodation, public service, and housing.

(b) Work closely with all public and privately funded organizations that provide developmental, educational, financial, preventative, protective, placement, recreational, rehabilitative, or health services to hearing impaired persons.

(c) Encourage providers of services to hearing impaired persons to improve the quality and coordination of their delivery systems.

(d) Provide information on deafness to hearing impaired persons and the public.

(e) Provide information and referral services to hearing impaired persons to insure that their rights are protected.

(f) Provide information to hearing impaired persons on programs and services provided for them by each level of government.

- (g) Promote new services, when necessary, for hearing impaired persons.
  - (h) Sponsor or cosponsor conferences, workshops, or seminars to educate hearing impaired persons and the public about deafness.
  - (i) Maintain statistics, facts, and data pertaining to hearing impaired persons of all ages and degrees of hearing loss.
  - (j) Provide technical assistance to state agencies and the public regarding communication accessibility for hearing impaired persons.
  - (k) Provide direct interpreter services to state agencies, the legislature, and the governor.
  - (l) Fulfill its duties under the deaf persons' interpreters act, Act No. 204 of the Public Acts of 1982, being sections 393.501 to 393.509 of the Michigan Compiled Laws.
- (2) The division may assess reasonable fees for conferences sponsored or cosponsored by the division, the use of materials developed by the division, and for services provided by the division.

**History:** 1937, Act 72, Eff. Oct. 29, 1937;—CL 1948, 408.204;—Am. 1988, Act 434, Eff. Mar. 30, 1989.

**Compiler's note:** For transfer of the advisory council on deaf and hard of hearing from the family independence agency to the department of labor and economic growth by type II transfer, see E.R.O. No. 2003-1, compiled at MCL 445.2011.

#### **408.205 Advisory council on deafness; establishment; duty; appointment, qualifications, and terms of members; vacancy; quorum; meetings; expenses.**

Sec. 5. (1) An advisory council on deafness is established within the department. The council shall advise the division on matters pertaining to hearing impaired persons.

(2) The council shall consist of 13 members appointed by the governor. The governor shall select members who are knowledgeable in the field of deafness. Not less than 7 members of the council shall be hearing impaired persons. The governor shall designate a chairperson of the council who shall serve in that capacity at the pleasure of the governor. The director of the division or his or her designee shall serve as secretary to the council.

(3) Except for members first appointed, the term of office of each member shall be 3 years. Of the members first appointed, 5 shall serve for 3 years, 4 for 2 years, and 4 for 1 year. A vacancy on the council shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment for the remainder of the unexpired term.

(4) Seven members of the council shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at a meeting of the council. Except as provided by rule, action by the council shall be by vote of a majority of the members present at a meeting. The council shall meet not less than twice a year at the call of the chairperson.

(5) A member of the council may be reimbursed for actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of an official duty of the council.

**History:** 1937, Act 72, Eff. Oct. 29, 1937;—CL 1948, 408.205;—Am. 1988, Act 434, Eff. Mar. 30, 1989.

**Compiler's note:** For transfer of the advisory council on deaf and hard of hearing from the family independence agency to the department of labor and economic growth by type II transfer, see E.R.O. No. 2003-1, compiled at MCL 445.2011.

#### **408.206 Conducting business of council at public meeting; notice; availability of writings to public.**

Sec. 6. (1) The business which the council may perform shall be conducted at a public meeting held in compliance with the open meetings act, Act No. 267 of the Public Acts of 1976, being sections 15.261 to 15.275 of the Michigan Compiled Laws. Public notice of the time, date, and place of the meeting shall be given in the manner required by Act No. 267 of the Public Acts of 1976.

(2) A writing prepared, owned, used, in the possession of, or retained by the council in the performance of an official function shall be made available to the public in compliance with the freedom of information act, Act No. 442 of the Public Acts of 1976, being sections 15.231 to 15.246 of the Michigan Compiled Laws.

**History:** Add. 1988, Act 434, Eff. Mar. 30, 1989.

**Compiler's note:** For transfer of the advisory council on deaf and hard of hearing from the family independence agency to the department of labor and economic growth by type II transfer, see E.R.O. No. 2003-1, compiled at MCL 445.2011.

#### **408.207 Gifts, grants, or other aid.**

Sec. 7. The division may solicit and accept gifts, grants, or other aid from any source, whether public or private.

**History:** Add. 1988, Act 434, Eff. Mar. 30, 1989.

**Compiler's note:** For transfer of the advisory council on deaf and hard of hearing from the family independence agency to the department of labor and economic growth by type II transfer, see E.R.O. No. 2003-1, compiled at MCL 445.2011.

#### **408.208 Division on deafness fund; establishment; administration; receipt and disposition of**

**money; revenue to be associated with division on deaf and hard of hearing; carrying over unexpended money.**

Sec. 8. (1) A division on deafness fund is established in the department of treasury to be administered by the department of energy, labor, and economic growth.

(2) The division shall receive and forward to the state treasurer for deposit in the division on deafness fund all money received under section 7 and sections 8c and 8e of the deaf persons' interpreters act, 1982 PA 204, MCL 393.508c and 393.508e. The fund may receive as revenue money from any other source, as appropriated by the legislature.

(3) The revenue in the division on deafness fund shall be expended for the implementation of this act and to cover costs associated with the division on deaf and hard of hearing within the commission on disability concerns as provided in section 8f of the deaf persons' interpreters act, 1982 PA 204, MCL 393.508f.

(4) Money in the fund that is unexpended at the end of the fiscal year shall be carried over to the succeeding fiscal year, shall not revert to the general fund, and shall be expended as provided in subsection (3).

**History:** Add. 1988, Act 434, Eff. Mar. 30, 1989;—Am. 2010, Act 73, Imd. Eff. May 19, 2010.

**Compiler's note:** For transfer of the advisory council on deaf and hard of hearing from the family independence agency to the department of labor and economic growth by type II transfer, see E.R.O. No. 2003-1, compiled at MCL 445.2011.

**408.209 Rules.**

Sec. 9. The department shall promulgate, as necessary, rules to implement this act pursuant to the administrative procedures act of 1969, Act No. 306 of the Public Acts of 1969, being sections 24.201 to 24.328 of the Michigan Compiled Laws.

**History:** Add. 1988, Act 434, Eff. Mar. 30, 1989.

**Compiler's note:** For transfer of the advisory council on deaf and hard of hearing from the family independence agency to the department of labor and economic growth by type II transfer, see E.R.O. No. 2003-1, compiled at MCL 445.2011.

**408.210 Appropriation.**

Sec. 10. The legislature annually shall appropriate a sum sufficient to implement this act.

**History:** Add. 1988, Act 434, Eff. Mar. 30, 1989.

**Compiler's note:** For transfer of the advisory council on deaf and hard of hearing from the family independence agency to the department of labor and economic growth by type II transfer, see E.R.O. No. 2003-1, compiled at MCL 445.2011.