

1 VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY — CHAPTER

2 *An Act to amend and reenact § 63.1-85.4 of the Code of Virginia, relating to powers and duties of the*
3 *Department for the Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing.*

4
5 Approved

[S 469]

6 **Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**

7 **1. That §63.1-85.4 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:**

8 § 63.1-85.4. Powers and duties of Department.

9 The Department shall have the following powers and duties:

10 1. To develop a program to inform the hearing impaired and the public of opportunities available for
11 the hearing impaired to fulfill their needs and solve certain problems through existing state and local
12 services and to make available such other information as would be of value to families, professionals
13 and other citizens working or involved in the deafness field;

14 2. To promote a framework for consultation and cooperation among the state agencies and
15 institutions serving the hearing impaired;

16 3. To aid in the provision of technical assistance and training within the Commonwealth in order to
17 support efforts to initiate or improve programs and services for the hearing impaired;

18 4. To evaluate state programs which deliver services to the hearing impaired to determine their
19 effectiveness and to make recommendations to the appropriate government officials concerning the
20 future financial support and continuation of such programs and the establishment of the new ones;

21 5. To monitor state programs delivering services to the hearing impaired to determine the extent to
22 which services promised or mandated are delivered;

23 6. To make appropriate recommendations for legislative changes to the Governor and General
24 Assembly and to follow and evaluate federal legislation having a potential impact upon the hearing
25 impaired of the Commonwealth;

26 7. To cooperate with schools for the deaf as provided in Chapter 19 (§ 22.1-346 et seq.) of Title 22.1
27 insofar as may be practicable;

28 8. To operate a program of ~~telecommunications~~ *technology* assistance and services to *encourage*
29 *independence of persons with hearing or speech impairments who are deaf, hard-of-hearing, or speech*
30 *impaired*, including the distribution of ~~telecommunications~~ devices for the deaf and support of message
31 relay services, through grants, contracts and other means, including a sliding fee scale where appropriate;
32 and

33 9. To make, adopt and promulgate such regulations, consistent with this chapter, as may be necessary
34 to carry out the purpose and intent of this chapter and other laws of the Commonwealth administered by
35 the Director or the Department. Such regulations shall be binding on all officers, agents, and employees
36 engaged in implementing the provisions of this chapter.

ENROLLED

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