



# Senate

General Assembly

**File No. 139**

February Session, 2022

Senate Bill No. 198

*Senate, March 28, 2022*

The Committee on Human Services reported through SEN. MOORE of the 22nd Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the bill ought to pass.

***AN ACT CONCERNING THE ADVISORY BOARD FOR PERSONS WHO ARE DEAF, HARD OF HEARING OR DEAFBLIND.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subsection (a) of section 46a-28 of the 2022 supplement to  
2 the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu  
3 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2022*):

4 (a) The Advisory Board for Persons Who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing  
5 or Deafblind shall consist of the following members: (1) The consultant  
6 appointed by the State Board of Education in accordance with section  
7 10-316a, or the consultant's designee; (2) the president of the  
8 Connecticut Council of Organizations Serving the Deaf, or the  
9 president's designee; (3) the president of the Connecticut Association of  
10 the Deaf, or the president's designee; (4) the president of the Connecticut  
11 Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, or the president's designee; (5) the  
12 Commissioner of Aging and Disability Services, or the commissioner's  
13 designee; (6) the executive director of the American School for the Deaf,  
14 or the executive director's designee; (7) [the Governor's liaison to the

15 disability community; (8)] the director of the Connecticut Chapter of We  
 16 the Deaf People; and [(9)] (8) eight members appointed by the Governor  
 17 as follows: (A) A person who is deaf; (B) a person who is hard of hearing;  
 18 (C) a person who is deafblind; (D) an interpreting professional who  
 19 serves deaf, hard of hearing or deafblind persons; (E) a healthcare  
 20 professional who works with persons who are deaf, hard of hearing or  
 21 deafblind; (F) a parent of a student in a predominantly oral education  
 22 program; (G) an educator who works with children who are deaf, hard  
 23 of hearing or deafblind; and (H) a parent of a student at the American  
 24 School for the Deaf. [The Commissioner of Aging and Disability  
 25 Services, the Governor's liaison to the disability community and a  
 26 member chosen by the majority of the board shall be the chairpersons of  
 27 the advisory board.] The members of the advisory board shall elect two  
 28 chairpersons of the advisory board from among the members of the  
 29 advisory board.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2022	46a-28(a)

**HS**      *Joint Favorable*

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*The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.*

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### **OFA Fiscal Note**

**State Impact:** None

**Municipal Impact:** None

### **Explanation**

The bill, which makes modifications related to the membership and number of chairpersons of the Advisory Board for Persons Who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing or Deafblind, does not result in a fiscal impact.

### **The Out Years**

**State Impact:** None

**Municipal Impact:** None

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**OLR Bill Analysis****SB 198*****AN ACT CONCERNING THE ADVISORY BOARD FOR PERSONS WHO ARE DEAF, HARD OF HEARING OR DEAFBLIND.*****SUMMARY**

This bill modifies the Advisory Board for Persons Who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing or Deafblind by eliminating from its membership the governor's liaison to the disability community. In doing so, it reduces the advisory board's (1) membership from 11 to 10 and (2) chairpersons from three to two.

Under current law, the board's three chairpersons are the aging and disability services commissioner, the governor's liaison to the disability community, and one board member chosen by a majority of the board. The bill instead requires the advisory board to elect two chairpersons from among its members.

By law, the advisory board (1) monitors services, (2) periodically meets with relevant executive branch agency heads to discuss best practices and gaps in services, (3) refers complaints to Disability Rights Connecticut, and (4) makes recommendations to the governor and the Human Services Committee.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2022

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Human Services Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 20 Nay 0 (03/17/2022)