



# 125th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2012

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Legislative Document

No. 1638

H.P. 1228

House of Representatives, December 20, 2011

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**An Act To Enhance the Duties and Responsibilities of the Director  
of the Division for the Deaf, Hard of Hearing and Late Deafened**

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Submitted by the Department of Labor pursuant to Joint Rule 204.

Received by the Clerk of the House on December 16, 2011. Referred to the Committee on Labor, Commerce, Research and Economic Development pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 401.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Heather J.R. Priest".

HEATHER J.R. PRIEST  
Clerk

Presented by Representative GILBERT of Jay.

Cosponsored by Representatives: AYOTTE of Caswell, BLODGETT of Augusta, CHIPMAN of Portland, CLARK of Millinocket, O'BRIEN of Lincolnville, WALLACE of Dexter.

1 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

2 **Sec. 1. 26 MRSA §1413-B, sub-§1-A** is enacted to read:

3 **1-A. Supervise vocational rehabilitation counselors for the deaf.** Provide direct  
4 supervision and oversight of vocational rehabilitation counselors who provide counseling  
5 to deaf, hard-of-hearing and late-deafened persons and who are within the division of  
6 vocational rehabilitation within the Bureau of Rehabilitation Services;

7 **Sec. 2. 26 MRSA §1413-E**, as amended by PL 2009, c. 174, §19, is further  
8 amended to read:

9 **§1413-E. Director of the Division for the Deaf, Hard of Hearing and Late Deafened**

10 **1. Director.** ~~The Director of the Bureau of Rehabilitation Services shall appoint the~~  
11 ~~Director of the Division for the Deaf, Hard of Hearing and Late Deafened, who is~~  
12 ~~responsible for administering the Division for the Deaf, Hard of Hearing and Late~~  
13 ~~Deafened and its programs and policies, including generating and seeking out financial~~  
14 ~~aid, grants and money and overseeing vocational rehabilitation counselors who provide~~  
15 ~~counseling to deaf, hard-of-hearing and late-deafened persons and who are within the~~  
16 ~~division of vocational rehabilitation within the Bureau of Rehabilitation Services.~~

17 **2. Director of the Division for the Deaf, Hard of Hearing and Late Deafened;**  
18 **staff; qualifications.** The Director of the Division for the Deaf, Hard of Hearing and Late  
19 Deafened and the staff must be knowledgeable of the needs of ~~the deaf, hard-of-hearing~~  
20 hard-of-hearing and late-deafened late-deafened persons and possess the ability to  
21 communicate on a meaningful basis with those persons.

22 **SUMMARY**

23 This bill clarifies that the Director of the Division for the Deaf, Hard of Hearing and  
24 Late Deafened has oversight of vocational rehabilitation counselors who work in the  
25 Department of Labor, Bureau of Rehabilitation Services's division of vocational  
26 rehabilitation and serve deaf, hard-of-hearing and late-deafened persons. The bill also  
27 removes language that provides that the Director of the Bureau of Rehabilitation Services  
28 appoints the Director of the Division for the Deaf, Hard of Hearing and Late Deafened.