

HB 142 Review of Advisory Committees

Committee on Telecommunications Access Services for Persons with Disabilities

Prepared by Sue O'Connell
May 2012

Statutory Authority: 2-15-2212, MCA, and Title 53, chapter 19, part 3

Purposes

- Oversee administration of the Montana Telecommunications Access Program, which provides equipment to make it easier for people with disabilities to use a standard telephone and to ensure they are able to contact emergency services and public safety agencies

General Information

Membership:

- 13 members, with committee makeup specified in statute to include a range of interested parties
- Governor appoints members
- Members serve 3-year terms
- Committee meets four times per year

Duties and Activities:

- Establish policies and procedures for administration of the program
- Analyze and approve a budget for administration of services under the program and monitor program expenditures
- Contract with qualified providers to design and put in place telecommunications relay programs that meets the needs of persons with disabilities
- Conduct outreach activities, as mandated by the Federal Communications Commission, to Montanans who are deaf, hard of hearing, or blind, to Montanans with speech or mobility disabilities, to families of people with disabilities, and to other state agencies in order to help the agencies comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act

Budget Information

In fiscal year 2011, committee-related expenses totaled about \$13,675, including about \$5,000 for the \$50 daily honorarium that committee members receive. The expenses also included travel reimbursement for members, as well as the costs of interpreters and captioning services to accommodate the needs of members.

Recent Activities

- Last met on Feb. 16, 2012

Committee on Telecommunications Access Services for Persons with Disabilities

Member	Hometown	Representing	Term Expires
Drew Arnot	Missoula	Independent Services Provider	7/1/2014
Ron Bibler	Great Falls	Disabilities Community	7/1/2013
Chris Caniglia	Helena	Non-Disabled Business Person	7/1/2013
Charles Charette	Lame Deer	Disabilities Community	7/1/2014
Robert Ellesch	Great Falls	Disabilities Community	7/1/2012
Charlotte Harasymczuk	Billings	Disabilities Community	7/1/2014
Pat Ingalls	Butte	Audiologist	7/1/2014
Christy Keto	Havre	InterLATA Carrier	7/1/2012
Pat McGlenn	Helena	Largest Service Provider	7/1/2012
Julia Saylor	Helena	Senior Citizen	7/1/2012
Eric Eck	Helena	Public Service Commission	7/1/2012
Linda Kirkland	Helena	Department of Administration	7/1/2013
James Marks	Helena	DPHHS	7/1/2013