Rename the Nevada Commission for Persons Who Are Deaf, Hard of Hearing or Speech Impaired

I have provided a copy, see below, of NRS Chapter 427A revised by SB 481 and as it pertains to the commission name, Nevada Commission for Persons Who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing or Speech Impaired. Highlighted in red are the occurrences of the current Commission name that would need to be changed.

Please come prepared to discuss:

1. The new Commission name you are proposing.
2. Reasons/benefits for changing the existing name.
3. As an alternative, if you wish to retain the current name please provide substantiation.

NRS Chapter 427A

SUBCOMMITTEE ON COMMUNICATION SERVICES FOR PERSONS WHO ARE DEAF OR HARD OF HEARING AND PERSONS WITH SPEECH DISABILITIES

NRS 427A.750

NRS 427A.750  Creation; membership; terms; vacancies; quorum; compensation; members holding public office or employed by governmental entity; powers and duties.

      1.  The Nevada Commission for Persons Who Are Deaf, Hard of Hearing or Speech Impaired is hereby created within the Office of the Governor. The Commission consists of nine members appointed by the Governor. The Governor shall consider recommendations made by the Nevada Commission on Services for Persons with Disabilities and appoint to the Nevada Commission for Persons Who Are Deaf, Hard of Hearing or Speech Impaired:

      (a) One nonvoting member who is employed by the State and who participates in the administration of the programs of this State that provide services to persons who are deaf, hard of hearing or speech impaired;

      (b) One member who is a member of the Nevada Association of the Deaf, or, if it ceases to exist, one member who represents an organization which has a membership of persons who are deaf, hard of hearing or speech-impaired;

      (c) One member who has experience with and knowledge of services for persons who are deaf, hard of hearing or speech-impaired;

      (d) One nonvoting member who is the Executive Director of the Nevada Telecommunications Association or, in the event of its dissolution, who represents the telecommunications industry;

      (e) Three members who are users of telecommunications relay services or the services of persons engaged in the practice of interpreting or the practice of realtime captioning;

      (f) One member who is a parent of a child who is deaf, hard of hearing or speech-impaired; and

      (g) One member who represents educators in this State and has knowledge concerning the provision of communication services to persons who are deaf, hard of hearing or speech impaired in elementary, secondary and postsecondary schools and the laws concerning the provision of those services.

      2.  After the initial term, the term of each member is 3 years. A member may be reappointed.

      3.  If a vacancy occurs during the term of a member, the Governor shall appoint a person similarly qualified to replace that member for the remainder of the unexpired term.

      4.  The Commission shall:

      (a) At its first meeting and annually thereafter, elect a Chair from among its voting members; and

      (b) Meet at the call of the Governor or the Chair or a majority of its voting members as is necessary to carry out its responsibilities.

      5.  A majority of the voting members of the Commission constitutes a quorum for the transaction of business, and a majority of the voting members of a quorum present at any meeting is sufficient for any official action taken by the Commission.

      6.  Members of the Commission serve without compensation, except that each member is entitled, while engaged in the business of the Commission, to the per diem allowance and travel expenses provided for state officers and employees generally if funding is available for this purpose.

      7.  A member of the Commission who is an officer or employee of this State or a political subdivision of this State must be relieved from his or her duties without loss of regular compensation so that the person may prepare for and attend meetings of the Commission and perform any work necessary to carry out the duties of the Commission in the most timely manner practicable. A state agency or political subdivision of this State shall not require an officer or employee who is a member of the Commission to make up the time he or she is absent from work to carry out his or her duties as a member of the Commission or use annual vacation or compensatory time for the absence.

      8.  The Commission may:

      (a) Make recommendations to any state agency, including, without limitation, the Division concerning the establishment and operation of programs for persons who are deaf, hard of hearing or speech impaired.

      (b) Recommend to the Governor any proposed legislation concerning persons who are deaf, hard of hearing or speech impaired.

      (c) Collect information concerning persons who are deaf, hard of hearing or speech impaired.

      (d) Create and annually review a 5-year strategic plan consisting of short-term and long-term goals for services provided by or on behalf of the Division. In creating and reviewing any such plan, the Commission must solicit input from various persons, including, without limitation, persons who are deaf, hard of hearing or speech impaired.

      (e) Review the goals, policies, programs and services of state agencies, including, without limitation, the Division, that serve persons who are deaf, hard of hearing or speech impaired and advise such agencies regarding such goals, policies, programs and services, including, without limitation, the outcomes of services provided to persons who are deaf, hard of hearing or speech impaired and the requirements imposed on providers.

      (f) Based on information collected by the Department of Education, advise the Department of Education on research and methods to ensure the availability of language and communication services for children who are deaf, hard of hearing or speech-impaired.

      (g)  Consult with the personnel of any state agency, including, without limitation, the Division, concerning any matter relevant to the duties of the Commission. A state agency shall make available to the Commission any officer or employee of the agency with which the Commission wishes to consult pursuant to this paragraph.

      9.  The Commission shall:

      (a) Make recommendations to the Division concerning the practice of interpreting and the practice of realtime captioning, including, without limitation, the adoption of regulations to carry out the provisions of [chapter 656A](https://www.leg.state.nv.us/NRS/NRS-656A.html#NRS656A) of NRS.

      (b) Make recommendations to the Division concerning all programs and activities funded by the surcharge imposed pursuant to subsection 3 of [NRS 427A.797](https://www.leg.state.nv.us/NRS/NRS-427A.html#NRS427ASec797).

      (c) Provide persons who are deaf, hard of hearing or speech impaired with information concerning services and resources that promote equality for such persons in education, employment and socialization and referrals for such services and resources;

      (d) Review the procedures and practices of state and local governmental entities to ensure that persons who are deaf, hard of hearing or speech impaired have equal access to resources and services provided by those governmental entities; and

      (e) Make recommendations to state and local governmental entities concerning:

      (1)  Compliance with laws and regulations concerning persons who are deaf, hard of hearing or speech impaired, including, without limitation, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, 42 U.S.C. §§ 12101 et seq.;

(2) Improving the health, safety, welfare and comfort of persons who are deaf, hard of hearing or speech impaired; and

(3) Integrating services and programs for persons who are deaf, hard of hearing or speech impaired and improving cooperation among state and local governmental entities that provide such services.

      10.  As used in this section:

      (a) “Practice of interpreting” has the meaning ascribed to it in [NRS 656A.060](https://www.leg.state.nv.us/NRS/NRS-656A.html#NRS656ASec060).

      (b) “Practice of realtime captioning” has the meaning ascribed to it in [NRS 656A.062](https://www.leg.state.nv.us/NRS/NRS-656A.html#NRS656ASec062).

      (c) “Telecommunications relay services” has the meaning ascribed to it in 47 C.F.R. § 64.601.