

# SPEECH AND HEARING IMPAIRED

BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & LABOR APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE  
STAFF: ZACKERY KING

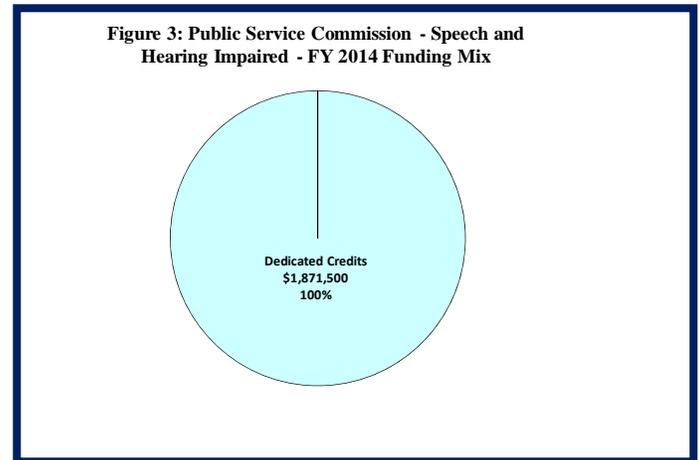
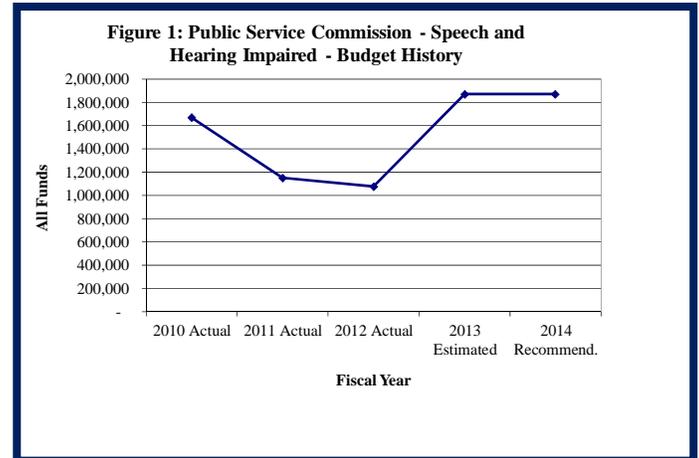
BUDGET BRIEF

## SUMMARY

The Speech and Hearing Impaired line item is set up in the Public Service Commission to administer the program of its same name. The program provides telecommunication access twenty-four hours a day to hearing or speech impaired persons through Relay Utah.

A Speech and Hearing Impaired Surcharge, established in Utah Code 54-8b-10, provides revenue to the program and says “the Commission shall hold hearings to establish a program whereby any certified deaf or severely hearing or speech impaired customer of a telephone corporation that provides service through a local exchange or of a wireless telecommunications provider may obtain a telecommunication device capable of serving the customer at no charge to the customer beyond the rate for basic service.”

Statute allows that “the Commission may, by rule, establish the type of telecommunications device to be provided to ensure functional equivalence.” The Commission may also, “impose a surcharge on each residence and business access line of each customer to the local exchange of any telephone corporation.” It is through this surcharge that the program is funded.



## ISSUES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

### **Base Budget**

For the Speech and Hearing Impaired line item, the Fiscal Analyst recommends a FY 2014 budget of \$1,871,500.

### **Intent Language**

After review and adjustment, the Fiscal Analyst recommends the following intent language to make the Speech and Hearing Impaired line item’s FY 2013 unexpended appropriations nonlapsing at the end of FY 2013:

*Under Section 63J-1-603 of the Utah Code, the Legislature intends that appropriations provided for the Public Service Commission for Speech and Hearing Impaired programs in Item 38, Chapter 10 Laws of Utah 2012 shall not lapse at the close of Fiscal Year 2013. The use of any nonlapsing funds is limited to providing telecommunication devices and equipment to individuals who are deaf or speech impaired.*

**BUDGET DETAIL TABLE**

Public Service Commission - Speech and Hearing Impaired						
Sources of Finance	FY 2012 Actual	FY 2013 Appropriated	Changes	FY 2013 Revised	Changes	FY 2014* Recommended
Dedicated Credits Revenue	1,970,800	1,975,700	0	1,975,700	(104,200)	1,871,500
Beginning Nonlapsing	1,061,800	1,361,200	595,200	1,956,400	104,200	2,060,600
Closing Nonlapsing	(1,956,400)	(1,465,400)	(595,200)	(2,060,600)	0	(2,060,600)
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,076,200</b>	<b>\$1,871,500</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$1,871,500</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$1,871,500</b>
<b>Programs</b>						
Speech and Hearing Impaired	1,076,200	1,871,500	0	1,871,500	0	1,871,500
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,076,200</b>	<b>\$1,871,500</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$1,871,500</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$1,871,500</b>
<b>Categories of Expenditure</b>						
Personnel Services	0	2,200	0	2,200	0	2,200
In-state Travel	17,700	25,900	0	25,900	0	25,900
Out-of-state Travel	100	2,700	0	2,700	0	2,700
Current Expense	1,056,200	1,839,200	0	1,839,200	0	1,839,200
DP Current Expense	2,200	1,500	0	1,500	0	1,500
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,076,200</b>	<b>\$1,871,500</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$1,871,500</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$1,871,500</b>

\*Does not include amounts in excess of subcommittee's state fund allocation that may be recommended by the Fiscal Analyst.

**SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Fiscal Analyst recommends the Legislature:

1. Approve a FY 2014 recommended budget of \$1,871,500 as shown in the budget detail table.
2. After review and adjustment, approve intent language authorizing nonlapsing authority to the Speech and Hearing Impaired line item.