



Northern Ireland
Assembly

Sign Language Bill

Marshalled List of Amendments
Consideration Stage

Tuesday 24 March 2026

Amendments tabled up to 9.30am Wednesday, 18 March 2026 and selected for debate

The Bill will be considered in the following order—

Clauses and Long Title

Amendment 1

Clause 2, Page 2, Line 13

After ‘classes’ insert ‘free of charge’

Minister for Communities

Amendment 2

Clause 2, Page 2, Line 15

Leave out ‘deaf children’ and insert ‘young people who are deaf’

Minister for Communities

Amendment 3

Clause 2, Page 2, Line 17

Leave out ‘children are persons under 19’ and insert ‘young people are persons under 25’

Minister for Communities

Amendment 4

Clause 2, Page 2, Line 17

At end insert—

‘(4) The Department must also make arrangements for ensuring the availability of classes—

(a) taught by accredited teachers or other suitable persons, and

(b) for people aged 25 and over who become deaf, and their close families and carers, to learn (or improve proficiency in) the Language.

(5) The Department may by regulations subject to negative resolution provide for a fee to be payable for classes provided under subsection (4).

(6) In setting a fee the Department must aim to ensure that in any financial year the income from the fee does not exceed the costs arising from the provision of classes.’

Ms Kellie Armstrong

Amendment 5

Clause 4, Page 3, Line 7

Leave out ‘Chapter’ and insert ‘section’

Ms Kellie Armstrong

Amendment 6

Clause 4, Page 3, Line 7

Leave out ‘are subject to negative resolution’ and insert ‘may not be made unless a draft of them has been laid before, and approved by a resolution of, the Assembly’

Minister for Communities

Amendment 7

Clause 5, Page 3, Line 27

Leave out ‘one person or group’ and insert ‘two persons or groups’

Minister for Communities

Amendment 8

Clause 5, Page 3, Line 27

Leave out ‘acting on behalf’ and insert ‘representative or cognisant of the views or interests’

Minister for Communities

Amendment 9

Clause 7, Page 5, Line 1

Leave out ‘each Northern Ireland department in the same way’ and insert ‘one or more of the Northern Ireland departments separately or together in different or similar ways’

Minister for Communities

Amendment 10

Clause 7, Page 5, Line 3

Before ‘persons’ insert ‘any’

Minister for Communities

Amendment 11

Clause 7, Page 5, Line 4

After ‘acting’ insert ‘on behalf or’

Minister for Communities

Amendment 12

Clause 7, Page 5, Line 5

After ‘functions’ insert ‘on behalf or’

Minister for Communities

Amendment 13

Clause 7, Page 5, Line 15

After ‘relevant’ insert ‘material or’

Minister for Communities

Amendment 14

Clause 7, Page 5, Line 18

Leave out ‘person or group’ and insert ‘persons or groups’

Minister for Communities

Amendment 15

Clause 7, Page 5, Line 18

After ‘behalf’ insert ‘or in the interests’

Minister for Communities

Amendment 16

Clause 8, Page 5, Line 27

Leave out ‘one person or group’ and insert ‘two persons or groups’

Minister for Communities

Amendment 17

Clause 8, Page 5, Line 27

Leave out ‘acting on behalf’ and insert ‘representative or cognisant of the views or interests’

Minister for Communities

Amendment 18

New Clause

Before clause 9 insert—

‘Department’s manner of engagement

8A.—(1) In this Chapter—

- (a) a reference to persons or groups appearing to the Department for Communities to be representative or cognisant of the views or interests of the deaf community includes persons or groups appearing to the Department to be representative or cognisant of the views or interests of part of the deaf community,
- (b) a reference to persons or groups appearing to the Department to be acting on behalf or in the interests of the deaf community includes persons or groups appearing to it to be acting on behalf or in the interests of part of the deaf community, and

(c) the reference to persons or groups appearing to the Department to be willing to exercise functions on behalf or in the interests of the deaf community includes persons or groups appearing to it to be willing to do so on behalf or in the interests of part of the deaf community.

(2) In fulfilling a requirement to consult persons or groups as imposed on the Department for Communities by this Chapter, the Department is in particular to seek to secure input relating specifically to each of (as well as input relating generally to both of) British Sign Language and Irish Sign Language.’

Minister for Communities

Amendment 19

Clause 9, Page 5, Line 38

After ‘be’ insert—

‘(a) laid before the Assembly by the Department, and
(b)’

Minister for Communities

Amendment 20

Clause 9, Page 6, Line 4

Leave out ‘5’ and insert ‘3’

Minister for Communities

Amendment 21

Clause 10, Page 6, Line 25

Leave out ‘are subject to negative resolution’ and insert ‘may not be made unless a draft of them has been laid before, and approved by a resolution of, the Assembly’

Minister for Communities

Amendment 22

Clause 11, Page 6, Line 33

Leave out ‘who normally use’ and insert ‘who will benefit from using’

Ms Kellie Armstrong