



Northern Ireland
Assembly

Sign Language Bill

Notice of Amendments tabled on
11 March 2026 for Consideration Stage

Clause 2, Page 2, Line 13

After ‘classes’ insert ‘free of charge’

Minister for Communities

Clause 2, Page 2, Line 15

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

Minister for Communities

Clause 2, Page 2, Line 17

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

Minister for Communities

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

Clause 5, Page 3, Line 27

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

Minister for Communities

Clause 5, Page 3, Line 27

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

Minister for Communities

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

Clause 7, Page 5, Line 3

Before ‘persons’ insert ‘any’

Minister for Communities

Clause 7, Page 5, Line 4

After ‘acting’ insert ‘on behalf or’

Minister for Communities

Clause 7, Page 5, Line 5

After ‘functions’ insert ‘on behalf or’

Minister for Communities

Clause 7, Page 5, Line 15

After ‘relevant’ insert ‘material or’

Minister for Communities

Clause 7, Page 5, Line 18

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

Minister for Communities

Clause 7, Page 5, Line 18

After ‘behalf’ insert ‘or in the interests’

Minister for Communities

Clause 8, Page 5, Line 27

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

Minister for Communities

Clause 8, Page 5, Line 27

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

Minister for Communities

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

Clause 9, Page 5, Line 38

After ‘be’ insert—

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

(b)

Minister for Communities

Clause 9, Page 6, Line 4

Leave out '5' and insert '3'

Minister for Communities

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