
SENATE BILL 5816

State of Washington

57th Legislature

2001 Regular Session

By Senators Hale, Hewitt, Thibaudeau, Hargrove, Deccio, Rasmussen and Kohl-Welles

Read first time 02/05/2001. Referred to Committee on Ways & Means.

1 AN ACT Relating to services for the deaf and hard of hearing;
2 creating a new section; and making an appropriation.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The six centers for the deaf and hard of
5 hearing provide critical communication and other supportive
6 services to people with hearing impairments. The funding to ensure
7 that these centers are open and available to people in all
8 geographic regions of the state has not been distributed in a way
9 that reflects the statewide needs of the deaf and hard of
10 hearing. Therefore, the legislature finds that people living in
11 southeast Washington state do not have the same base support for
12 their center as those living in other regions of the state. The
13 South Eastern Washington Service Center of the Deaf and Hard of
14 Hearing is expected to serve nearly twenty-two thousand deaf and
15 hard of hearing people in a six-county region. In addition, the
16 center has received requests for services from neighboring
17 communities, including Yakima and Grant counties. Although the
18 South Eastern Washington Service Center of the Deaf and Hard of

1 Hearing must meet the same uniform state requirements as the
2 Yakima center they currently receive only twenty-five percent of
3 the funding. These uniform services provided and critically needed
4 in each center for the deaf and hard of hearing include assistance
5 in accessing community services, education and training, outreach
6 activities, information and referral, interpreter referrals,
7 community advocates, mental health counseling, and Americans with
8 Disabilities Act counseling. In addition, each service center is
9 required by contract to develop and implement a five-year
10 strategic plan and deliver numerous reports and service records to
11 the state.

12 The legislature finds that the population of individuals and
13 families needing these services has grown considerably over the
14 last four years in southeast Washington and there is a need for
15 consistent and stable funding to support the critical services to
16 this population.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The sum of two hundred fourteen thousand
18 seven hundred twenty dollars, or as much thereof as may be
19 necessary, is appropriated for the biennium ending June 30, 2003,
20 from the general fund to the South Eastern Washington Center of
21 the Deaf and Hard of Hearing to provide services to the deaf and
22 hard of hearing in their communities.

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