

SSB 5105 - H AMD 364

By Representative Santos

ADOPTED 04/10/2003

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the
2 following:

3 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that there is
4 currently no requirement for educational interpreters for deaf and hard
5 of hearing students to be certified or to meet standardized
6 qualifications or competencies.

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** By November 30, 2004, the office of the
8 superintendent of public instruction, in consultation with educators,
9 parents, organizations representing special education, organizations
10 representing educational interpreters and the interests of deaf and
11 hearing impaired children, and other interested parties, shall conduct
12 a comprehensive review and analysis of the qualifications and
13 competencies required of educational interpreters who assist deaf and
14 hearing impaired students. The review shall include an analysis of all
15 state and federal requirements for meeting the educational needs of
16 deaf and hearing impaired students, including the requirement to
17 provide educational interpreters, and shall identify all funding
18 sources available to pay for those educational needs. The office shall
19 make recommendations to the governor, appropriate legislative
20 committees, and the state board of education on the following options:

21 (1) Requiring that all educational interpreters for deaf students
22 and hard of hearing students meet national registry standards;

23 (2) Requiring the state board of education or the office of the
24 superintendent of public instruction, as appropriate, to establish
25 competencies for educational interpreters;

26 (3) Identifying state and national training programs that could
27 prepare educational interpreters to meet and maintain any standards or
28 competencies necessary to serve deaf and hearing impaired students;

- 1 (4) Studying the feasibility of using distance learning options as
2 a way to both maintain the quality and increase the availability of
3 educational interpreters;
- 4 (5) Requiring the office of the superintendent of public
5 instruction, in cooperation with institutions of higher education that
6 have a deaf studies program, to provide a training program for
7 educational interpreters. The training program should be accessible to
8 all areas of Washington through a combination of interactive video
9 conferences, on-line courses, and traditional teaching methods; and
- 10 (6) Any other option that the office deems viable to increase and
11 maintain the quality and availability of educational interpreters in a
12 fiscally responsible manner."

EFFECT: Removes from consideration options that would require educational interpreters to have baccalaureate or higher degrees, removes an option that would require state or national certification and replaces the language with a reference to national registry standards, moves the study from the PESB to OSPI, and has the office report to appropriate legislative committees instead of the entire legislature. Includes a responsibility to review legal requirements and identify funding sources, review available training programs, consider the feasibility of using distance learning options, and consult stakeholders during the study.

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