

HB 2765 - S COMM AMD

By Committee on Children & Family Services & Corrections

ADOPTED 03/04/2004

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

3 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that children who
4 are deaf or hard of hearing and their families have unique needs
5 specific to the hearing loss. These unique needs reflect the
6 challenges children with hearing loss and their families encounter
7 related to their lack of full access to auditory communication.

8 (2) The legislature further finds that early detection of hearing
9 loss in a child and early intervention and treatment have been
10 demonstrated to be highly effective in facilitating a child's healthy
11 development in a manner consistent with the child's age and cognitive
12 ability.

13 (3) These combined factors support the need for early intervention
14 services providers with specialized training and expertise, spanning
15 the spectrum of available approaches and educational options, who can
16 address the unique characteristics and needs of each child who is deaf
17 or hard of hearing and that child's family.

18 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) There is established an advisory council
19 in the department of social and health services for the purpose of
20 advancing the development of a comprehensive and effective statewide
21 system to provide prompt and effective early interventions for children
22 in the state who are deaf or hard of hearing and their families.

23 (2) Members of the advisory council shall have training,
24 experience, or interest in hearing loss in children. Membership shall
25 include, but not be limited to, the following: Pediatricians;
26 audiologists; teachers of the deaf and hard of hearing; parents of
27 children who are deaf or hard of hearing; a representative from the
28 Washington state school for the deaf; and representatives of the infant

1 toddler early intervention program in the department of social and
2 health services, the department of health, and the office of the
3 superintendent of public instruction.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) The advisory council shall develop
5 statewide standards for early intervention services and early
6 intervention services providers specifically related to children who
7 are deaf or hard of hearing.

8 (2) The advisory council shall develop these standards by January
9 1, 2005.

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** (1) The advisory council shall create a
11 pamphlet to be provided to the parents of a child in the state who is
12 diagnosed with hearing loss by their child's pediatrician or
13 audiologist, as appropriate, upon diagnosis of hearing loss. The
14 pamphlet shall contain, at minimum, information on the following: The
15 variety of interventions and treatments available for children who are
16 deaf or hard of hearing; and resources for parent support, counseling,
17 financing, and education related to hearing loss in children.

18 (2) The pamphlet shall be available for distribution by July 1,
19 2005.

20 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** Sections 1 through 4 of this act constitute
21 a new chapter in Title 70 RCW."

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22 On page 1, line 2 of the title, after "hearing;" strike the
23 remainder of the title and insert "and adding a new chapter to Title 70
24 RCW."

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