
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1971

State of Washington

58th Legislature

2003 Regular Session

By House Committee on Children & Family Services (originally sponsored by Representatives Dickerson, Kagi, Pettigrew, Miloscia, Fromhold, Darneille, Shabro, Orcutt, Bailey, Schual-Berke and Kenney)

READ FIRST TIME 03/05/03.

1 AN ACT Relating to deaf education; and creating new sections.

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

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that there are
4 deaf and hard-of-hearing students between three and twenty-one years of
5 age attending public schools or the school for the deaf in the state.
6 Of those students, approximately ninety-three percent attend public
7 schools and seven percent attend the school for the deaf.

8 (2) The legislature further finds that access to comprehensive
9 services, well-qualified professionals, and choices among communication
10 approaches for deaf and hard-of-hearing students varies across the
11 state. The legislature finds that the school for the deaf, local
12 school districts, and educational service districts must continually
13 examine their roles, in consultation with parents, students, advocacy
14 groups, researchers, and teachers, to ensure that the needs of hearing
15 impaired children throughout the state are being met in the most
16 effective manner, both now and in the future.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) There is established a deaf education
18 task force. The focus of the task force shall be an examination of the

1 roles of the school for the deaf, local school districts, and
2 educational service districts in the education and training of hearing
3 impaired children in the state.

4 (2) The membership of the task force must include the following:
5 Parents of hearing impaired children; hearing impaired adults;
6 representatives of organizations that advocate for hearing impaired
7 individuals; researchers on hearing impairment; individuals
8 specializing in the education of hearing impaired individuals; and
9 representatives of local school districts and educational service
10 districts.

11 (3) The task force shall consist of fifteen members as follows:

12 (a) Eleven members appointed by the governor upon the
13 recommendations of the board of trustees of the school for the deaf,
14 the office of the superintendent of public instruction, the department
15 of health, and private deaf education schools, three of whom shall be
16 members of the board of trustees of the school for the deaf, including
17 the chair of the board of trustees; and

18 (b) Four members of the legislature, one from each political caucus
19 of the house of representatives to be appointed by the speaker of the
20 house of representatives and one from each political caucus of the
21 senate to be appointed by the president of the senate, each of whom
22 shall serve as ex officio members of the task force.

23 (4) The task force shall elect a chair from among its members.
24 Vacancies in the membership of the task force shall be filled in the
25 same manner as the original appointments.

26 (5) Nongovernmental members of the task force shall be reimbursed
27 for travel expenses in accordance with RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060.
28 Legislative members of the task force shall serve without additional
29 compensation but shall be reimbursed for travel expenses in accordance
30 with RCW 44.04.120 while attending sessions of the task force or on
31 official business authorized by the task force.

32 (6) Costs of interpreter services and other necessary
33 accommodations for the task force shall be shared equally by the school
34 for the deaf, the office of the superintendent of public instruction,
35 the house of representatives, and the senate.

36 (7) Staff support for the task force shall be provided by the house
37 of representatives office of program research and senate committee
38 services.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The deaf education task force shall develop
2 recommendations, which must include, at a minimum, the following:

3 (1) Appropriate service delivery models for serving hearing
4 impaired children throughout the state;

5 (2) The role of the school for the deaf in the development of
6 quality services for hearing impaired children throughout the state and
7 in the provision of direct and indirect services to hearing impaired
8 children both on campus and in the children's local communities; and

9 (3) The respective roles of, and the relationship among, the school
10 for the deaf, local school districts, and educational service districts
11 in the delivery of effective education to hearing impaired children
12 throughout the state.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** (1) The deaf education task force shall
14 report to the governor and the appropriate fiscal and policy committees
15 of the legislature no later than December 1, 2004.

16 (2) The deaf education task force shall expire January 1, 2005.

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