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HOUSE BILL 2765

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State of Washington

58th Legislature

2004 Regular Session

By Representatives Dickerson, Kagi, McDermott, Moeller, Talcott, Chase, Conway, Kenney and Morrell

Read first time 01/20/2004. Referred to Committee on Children & Family Services.

1 AN ACT Relating to information and services for children who are  
2 deaf or hard of hearing; and adding a new chapter to Title 70 RCW.

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

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

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

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

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

6        (2) Members of the advisory council shall have training,  
7 experience, or interest in hearing loss in children. Membership shall  
8 include, but not be limited to, the following:    Pediatricians;  
9 audiologists; teachers of the deaf and hard of hearing; parents of  
10 children who are deaf or hard of hearing; and representatives of the  
11 infant toddler early intervention program in the department of social  
12 and health services, the department of health, and the office of the  
13 superintendent of public instruction.

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

18        (2) The advisory council shall develop these standards by January  
19 1, 2005.

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

28        (2) The pamphlet shall be available for distribution by July 1,  
29 2005.

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

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