
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 3031

State of Washington

58th Legislature

2004 Regular Session

By House Committee on Education (originally sponsored by Representatives McDermott, Dickerson, Santos, Kenney, D. Simpson, Quall, Conway and Kagi)

READ FIRST TIME 02/06/04.

1 AN ACT Relating to certification of teachers of the deaf and hard
2 of hearing; adding a new section to chapter 28A.410 RCW; and creating
3 a new section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that the quality of
6 education for children who are deaf or hard of hearing and the
7 expectations for those children's achievement should be equivalent to
8 those for children throughout the state. The legislature also finds
9 that deaf and hard of hearing children can benefit greatly if they are
10 taught by an educator who is trained to understand the learning and
11 communication issues the children face. Educators who received teacher
12 training in a program for the deaf and hard of hearing are sensitive to
13 the needs of deaf and hard of hearing students and are able to provide
14 appropriate strategies to assist students in reacting to and
15 interacting with their environment. The legislature intends to assist
16 school districts in their efforts to attract teachers who are
17 especially trained to work with deaf and hard of hearing students by
18 directing the state board of education to establish certification for
19 teachers of the deaf and hard of hearing.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.410
2 RCW to read as follows:

3 The state board of education, with advice from the professional
4 educator standards board, shall develop certification requirements for
5 teachers of deaf and hard of hearing students. The certification shall
6 be focused on the specific skills and knowledge necessary to serve the
7 education and communication needs of deaf and hard of hearing students,
8 and the certification may be limited to work with such students. In
9 establishing rules for certification of teachers who will be working
10 almost exclusively with students who are deaf or hard of hearing, the
11 state board of education shall consider applicants to have met state
12 endorsement requirements if they possess a baccalaureate or master's
13 degree in deaf education from a teacher training program approved by
14 the council on education of the deaf.

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