

SHB 1893 - S COMM AMD

By Committee on Early Learning, K-12 & Higher Education

ADOPTED 04/15/2005

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

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

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

20 The state board of education, with advice from the professional  
21 educator standards board, shall develop certification endorsement  
22 requirements for teachers of deaf and hard of hearing students. The  
23 endorsement shall be focused on the specific skills and knowledge  
24 necessary to serve the education and communication needs of deaf and  
25 hard of hearing students. In establishing rules for the endorsement of  
26 teachers who will be working almost exclusively with students who are  
27 deaf or hard of hearing, the state board of education shall consider  
28 applicants to have met state endorsement requirements if they possess

1 a baccalaureate or master's degree in deaf education from a teacher  
2 training program approved by the council on education of the deaf.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.410  
4 RCW to read as follows:

5 The definitions in this section apply throughout sections 4 and 5  
6 of this act unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

7 (1) "Educational interpreters" means school district employees  
8 providing sign language translation and further explanation of concepts  
9 introduced by the teacher for students who are deaf, deaf-blind, or  
10 hard of hearing.

11 (2) "Educational interpreter written and performance assessment"  
12 means a national performance assessment offered by a national  
13 organization of professional sign language interpreters and  
14 transliterators, that is designed to evaluate more than one sign system  
15 or language.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.410  
17 RCW to read as follows:

18 (1) By 2009, educational interpreters must have completed the  
19 educational interpreter written and performance assessments, and must  
20 achieve the standard on both, established by the office of the  
21 superintendent of public instruction. For those interpreters not  
22 achieving the established standard, the interpreter must continue  
23 training until he or she is able to pass the assessments.

24 (2) By 2012, all educational interpreters must pass the written  
25 assessment, meet the standard on the educational interpreter  
26 performance assessment, and become nationally certified by the national  
27 association of the deaf registry of interpreters for the deaf.

28 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.410  
29 RCW to read as follows:

30 (1) The state board of education, with advice from the professional  
31 educator standards board, shall develop educational staff associate  
32 certification requirements for educational interpreters of deaf and  
33 hard of hearing students. The certification shall focus on the  
34 specific skills and knowledge necessary to serve the educational and  
35 communication needs of deaf and hard of hearing students.

1 (2) In establishing rules of the educational staff associate  
2 certification for educational interpreters who will be working almost  
3 exclusively with students who are deaf or hard of hearing, the state  
4 board of education shall consider applicants to have met state  
5 endorsement requirements if they:

6 (a) Hold national certification and pass the educational  
7 interpreter performance assessment and written test at the standard  
8 established by the office of superintendent of public instruction; and

9 (b) Hold a bachelor's degree in education or educational  
10 interpreting from a regionally accredited institution of higher  
11 education; or a bachelor's degree in another field of study unrelated  
12 to education, from a regionally accredited institution of higher  
13 education and thirty hours of course work in education.

14 (3) The state board of education may adopt rules to implement this  
15 section."

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16 On page 1, line 2 of the title, after "hearing;" strike the  
17 remainder of the title and insert "adding new sections to chapter  
18 28A.410 RCW; and creating a new section."

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