
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1893

State of Washington 59th Legislature 2005 Regular Session

By House Committee on Education (originally sponsored by Representatives McDermott, Kenney and Dickerson)

READ FIRST TIME 03/07/05.

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

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