
SENATE BILL 6098

State of Washington

59th Legislature

2005 Regular Session

By Senator Fraser

Read first time 03/25/2005. Referred to Committee on Early Learning, K-12 & Higher Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to educational interpreters and services for the
2 deaf and hard of hearing; adding new sections to chapter 28A.410 RCW;
3 adding a new section to chapter 28B.76 RCW; adding a new section to
4 chapter 28A.300 RCW; creating new sections; and making an
5 appropriation.

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

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that there is
8 currently no requirement that educational interpreters for deaf and
9 hard of hearing students be certified or meet standardized
10 qualifications or competencies. The purpose of this act is to
11 establish standards for certification and to standardize
12 qualifications.

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

15 The definitions in this section apply throughout sections 3 and 4
16 of this act unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

17 (1) "Educational interpreters" means school district employees

1 providing sign language translation and further explanation of concepts
2 introduced by the teacher for students who are deaf, deaf-blind, or
3 hard of hearing.

4 (2) "Educational interpreter written and performance assessment"
5 means a national performance assessment offered by a national
6 organization of professional sign language interpreters and
7 transliterators, that is designed to evaluate more than one sign system
8 or language.

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

11 (1) By 2009, educational interpreters must have completed the
12 educational interpreter written and performance assessments, and must
13 achieve the standard on both, established by the office of the
14 superintendent of public instruction. For those interpreters not
15 achieving the established standard, the interpreter must continue
16 training until he or she is able to pass the assessments.

17 (2) By 2012, all educational interpreters must pass the written
18 assessment, meet the standard on the educational interpreter
19 performance assessment, and become nationally certified by the national
20 association of the deaf registry of interpreters for the deaf.

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

23 (1) The state board of education, with advice from the professional
24 educator standards board, shall develop educational staff associate
25 certification requirements for educational interpreters of deaf and
26 hard of hearing students. The certification shall focus on the
27 specific skills and knowledge necessary to serve the educational and
28 communication needs of deaf and hard of hearing students.

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

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

1 (b) Hold a bachelor's degree in education or educational
2 interpreting from a regionally accredited institution of higher
3 education; or a bachelor's degree in another field of study unrelated
4 to education, from a regionally accredited institution of higher
5 education and thirty hours of course work in education.

6 (3) The state board of education may adopt rules to implement this
7 section.

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** A new section is added to chapter 28B.76 RCW
9 to read as follows:

10 The higher education coordinating board shall establish a
11 bachelor's degree educational sign language interpreter training
12 program in Washington state. The training program should be available
13 through the use of various distance learning technologies.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** An advisory committee to advise the
15 legislature on issues related to educational interpreting is
16 established. The advisory committee shall include members representing
17 nationally certified educational interpreters, tactile interpreters,
18 interpreter educators, deaf leaders, public school administrators, and
19 parents of deaf and deaf-blind children.

20 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.300
21 RCW to read as follows:

22 (1) The office of superintendent of public instruction shall work
23 with school districts and educational service districts to develop
24 regional service areas for students who are deaf, deaf-blind, and hard
25 of hearing, for the purposes of more effectively providing services to
26 these students.

27 (2) The office of the superintendent of public instruction may
28 adopt rules to implement this section.

29 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** The sum of forty-nine thousand dollars, or
30 as much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for the fiscal
31 year ending June 30, 2006, from the general fund to the office of the
32 superintendent of public instruction to participate in the assessment
33 system for K-12 educational interpreters. Participation is for

1 purposes of administration of the educational interpreter written and
2 performance assessments.

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