

SB 6605-S - DIGEST

(DIGEST OF PROPOSED 1ST SUBSTITUTE)

Provides that, by September 1, 2010, each school district shall have each educational interpreter working within the district, who has not already achieved national certification, assessed using a nationally recognized performance assessment to evaluate the receptive and expressive interpreting skills of the educational interpreter. School districts shall provide additional training for those educational interpreters who do not meet the standards to achieve the national certification.

Requires that, by December 2006, the office of the superintendent of public instruction shall partner with other states to build and enhance a network of support for the successful implementation of the nationally recognized performance assessment of the educational interpreters working in Washington schools.

Requires the Washington state institute for public policy to retain the services of a professional meeting facilitator to plan and conduct a series of meetings examining the strengths and weaknesses of educational services available to deaf and hard of hearing children throughout the state. The goal of the process is to develop a set of recommendations that would establish an integrated system of instructional and support programs that would provide deaf and hard of hearing children the knowledge and skills necessary for them to be successful in their adult lives and the "hearing" world of work.

Requires the office of the superintendent of public instruction, in cooperation with the state board for community and technical colleges and the higher education coordinating board, to create an advisory committee that includes certified educational interpreters, tactile interpreters, interpreter educators, deaf leaders, public school administrators, parents of deaf and deaf-blind children, and other interested parties to advise the superintendent of public instruction, the state board for community and technical colleges, and the higher education coordinating board on issues of deaf education and educational interpreting in each of the educational sectors.

Provides that as part of the needs assessment process conducted by the higher education coordinating board in accordance with RCW 28B.76.230, the board shall assess the need for a baccalaureate degree program in Washington state that provides educational sign language interpreter training. If the board determines that there is a need for such a program, the board shall encourage the appropriate institutions or institutional sector to create a program.