
HOUSE BILL 1663

State of Washington

55th Legislature

1997 Regular Session

By Representatives Romero, Cole, Regala, O'Brien, Blalock, Ogden, Kenney, Costa, Appelwick, Fisher, Kastama, Dickerson, Veloria, Hatfield, Dunshee, Kessler, Conway, Chopp, Morris, Wood, Murray, Cooper, Cody, Keiser, Tokuda and Dunn

Read first time 02/04/97. Referred to Committee on Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to educational interpreters in schools; and adding
2 a new section to chapter 28A.155 RCW.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.155
5 RCW to read as follows:

6 The state board of education, in conjunction with the office of
7 deaf and hard of hearing services in the department of social and
8 health services, shall establish competencies for educational
9 interpreters for deaf, deaf-blind, and hard of hearing students. After
10 September 1, 1999, only qualified educational interpreters that
11 demonstrate the competencies may be used as educational interpreters
12 for students in public schools.

13 A school district may seek a waiver from the state board of
14 education competency requirement if the district can demonstrate that
15 there is no educational interpreter within a reasonable distance from
16 the school who meets the competencies established by the state board of
17 education and the district submits a plan to remedy the lack of
18 qualified educational interpreters who can provide services in the
19 school districts.

1 The state board of education shall notify the office of deaf and
2 hard of hearing services when a district seeks a waiver. The office of
3 deaf and hard of hearing services may make a recommendation to the
4 state board of education on whether a waiver should be granted, and
5 whether the district plan to remedy the lack or qualified educational
6 interpreters is appropriate.

7 The state board of education shall adopt rules on competencies for
8 educational interpreters for deaf, deaf-blind, and hard of hearing
9 students.

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