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HOUSE BILL 3032

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State of Washington

58th Legislature

2004 Regular Session

By Representatives McDermott, Dickerson, Santos, Kenney, Simpson, D., Wood and Kagi

Read first time 01/26/2004. Referred to Committee on Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to education for children who are deaf and hard of  
2 hearing; adding a new section to chapter 28A.155 RCW; and creating a  
3 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 and achievement expectations for children who are deaf or  
7 hard of hearing should be equivalent to those for children throughout  
8 the state. The legislature also finds that no single educational  
9 approach or form of education can meet the needs of all children in the  
10 state who are deaf or hard of hearing. The legislature further finds  
11 that children who are deaf or hard of hearing must have their education  
12 provided in the least restrictive environment. In addition, services  
13 provided to children who are deaf or hard of hearing should be  
14 continuously guided by current research and should span the spectrum of  
15 options available to families, respecting those families' choices and  
16 recognizing that changes may occur. Finally, the legislature finds  
17 that unbiased and comprehensive information about the spectrum of  
18 communication and educational options available to children who are  
19 deaf or hard of hearing should be provided to families upon enrollment

1 in the prekindergarten through twelfth grade education system and upon  
2 the start of the individualized education plan transition services  
3 provided at age fourteen, to support informed choices at each of these  
4 critical decision-making points.

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.155  
6 RCW to read as follows:

7 (1) By September 1, 2006, each school district shall be prepared to  
8 offer a spectrum of services, including sign language-based and oral-  
9 based programming, for students who are deaf or hard of hearing. The  
10 services shall correspond to the educational approach selected for each  
11 child by the child's parents or guardian. The school district may  
12 contract with outside entities to provide the services.

13 (2) A professional with expertise in hearing impairment must be  
14 included in any team that helps prepare an individualized education  
15 plan for a child who is deaf or hard of hearing.

16 (3) The superintendent of public instruction shall provide to  
17 school districts information on advances in research, technology, and  
18 educational approaches for children who are deaf or hard of hearing.

19 (4) The superintendent of public instruction shall provide  
20 professional development to educational professionals throughout the  
21 state on the educational needs of children who are deaf or hard of  
22 hearing.

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