

SENATE BILL 5179

State of Washington

52nd Legislature

1991 Regular Session

By Senators L. Smith, Bauer and Conner.

Read first time January 22, 1991. Referred to Committee on Children & Family Services.

1 AN ACT Relating to a pilot project for troubled deaf youth;
2 creating new sections; and making an appropriation.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that many deaf
5 youth have mental and physical conditions that interfere with
6 educational and developmental processes. The legislature is aware of
7 the need for an early intervention and prevention program to prevent
8 unnecessary hospitalization or institutionalization of troubled deaf
9 youth. The legislature recognizes the need for a community-based,
10 multidisciplinary, and family centered program to effectively treat
11 troubled deaf youth.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** Unless the context clearly requires
13 otherwise, the definitions in this section apply throughout this act:

1 (1) "Troubled deaf youth" means a child twenty-one years old or
2 younger who is deaf and who has one or more additional physical or
3 mental disabling conditions, including emotional or behavioral
4 incapacities, that are clearly interfering with the child's functioning
5 in family or school or with peers or the child's personality
6 development and learning.

7 (2) "Multidisciplinary program" means a coordinated program of
8 social, psychological, and educational services based on an
9 individual's assessed need and designed to integrate students back into
10 existing educational programs.

11 (3) "State resource team" means a team of professionals that
12 includes a full-time psychologist, social worker, and education
13 specialist and a part-time audiologist, speech pathologist, and
14 occupational therapist.

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) An advisory board for a pilot
16 project for troubled deaf youth is created. The Washington state
17 school for the deaf shall appoint one representative from the school
18 and one representative from each of the following organizations:
19 Division of developmental disabilities, division of mental health,
20 division of children and family services, the educational service
21 district in which the pilot project is located, the student body of the
22 Washington state school for the deaf, Washington state association for
23 the deaf, the office of the superintendent of public instruction,
24 parents of troubled deaf youth, citizens of the general community, the
25 deaf community, and members of the business community in which the
26 pilot project is located.

27 (2) The advisory board shall be responsible for oversight of the
28 project. This oversight shall include reviewing and making
29 recommendations to the Washington state school for the deaf on the

1 planning, implementation, and administration of an educational,
2 psychological, and social development project that serves as an
3 appropriate bridge for integration of troubled deaf youth into existing
4 educational programs.

5 (3) By July 1, 1992, the advisory board shall participate with the
6 school in the development of a report to the office of the
7 superintendent of public instruction and the appropriate committees of
8 the legislature on the results of a state-wide inventory of existing
9 services and the unmet needs of troubled deaf youth. The report shall
10 also contain recommendations for expansion of services state-wide with
11 the same requirements and emphasis as in the pilot project.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** (1) A pilot project shall be
13 established. The design of the project shall incorporate the
14 following: A goal-oriented and multidisciplinary approach, emphasis on
15 individual needs assessment, a focus on education, a design
16 incorporating type and level of disability with age-appropriate
17 treatment, coordination with existing programs, and a training
18 component.

19 (2) The pilot project shall initially serve twenty-four troubled
20 deaf youth during the 1991-93 biennium. A specialized residential
21 component shall serve twelve youth and a specialized educational
22 component shall serve another twelve youth.

23 (3) The state resource team shall be incorporated into the project
24 design as an integral part of addressing prevention, assessment,
25 treatment, and other resource needs state-wide with particular
26 attention to the needs of rural communities.

27 (4) The pilot project shall be located near the Washington state
28 school for the deaf to enhance efficient use of existing resources and
29 expertise.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** The sum of one million five hundred ten
2 thousand dollars, or as much thereof as may be necessary, is
3 appropriated from the general fund to the office of the superintendent
4 of public instruction for the biennium ending June 30, 1993, to carry
5 out the purposes of this act.