
ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5458

State of Washington 52nd Legislature 1991 Regular Session

By Senate Committee on Ways & Means (originally sponsored by Senators L. Smith, Jesernig, Bauer and Newhouse).

Read first time March 11, 1991.

1 AN ACT Relating to regional service centers for the deaf;
2 reenacting and amending RCW 43.20A.360; adding new sections to chapter
3 43.20A RCW; and creating a new section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature intends within available
6 resources to assure quality human services to enhance the lives of deaf
7 and hard of hearing people throughout the state by providing:

8 (1) Communication accessibility through interpreters and other
9 information services;

10 (2) Quality human services for deaf and hard of hearing citizens;

11 (3) Coordination among private and public agencies, the office of
12 deaf services, regions, and the deaf community; and

13 (4) Training and consultative services to public and private
14 agencies.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The following definitions apply throughout
2 sections 1 through 6 of this act:

3 "Deaf person" means a person with severe or complete absence of
4 auditory sensitivity whose primary effective receptive communication
5 mode is visual or tactile or both.

6 "Hard of hearing person" means a person with some absence of
7 auditory sensitivity who has residual hearing that may be sufficient to
8 produce linguistic information through audition with or without
9 amplification under favorable listening conditions, or a person with
10 other auditory handicapping conditions.

11 "Department" means the department of social and health services.

12 "Office" means the office of deaf services within the department of
13 social and health services.

14 "Secretary" means the secretary of the department of social and
15 health services.

16 "Region" means one of five geographical areas comprised of
17 adjoining counties within the state.

18 "Regional advisory committee" means a group of persons who are
19 deaf, hard of hearing, or advocates and, by appointment or vote, are
20 delegated to represent the interest of the deaf community within a
21 region.

22 "State advisory committee" means the advising committee for state
23 programs for the deaf.

24 "Regional service center" means a community-based center located
25 within a region that provides service delivery to deaf and hard of
26 hearing individuals.

27 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) The state advisory committee for the
28 state programs for the deaf shall consist of one representative of the
29 office of deaf services, one representative of each regional service

1 center, two representatives of each regional advisory committee, and
2 other members as designated by the secretary, who by appointment or
3 vote are delegated to represent in the development of programs the
4 interests of the regional advisory committee, the office of deaf
5 services, and the regional service centers. Members of the state
6 advisory committee shall receive no compensation but shall be
7 reimbursed for travel expenses as provided in RCW 43.03.050 and
8 43.03.060.

9 (2) The state advisory committee shall meet quarterly to discuss
10 and monitor the programs and activities of the regional service
11 centers. The committee shall quarterly report its findings along with
12 recommendations to the department through the office of deaf services.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** (1) A regional service center shall be
14 established within each of the following regions:

15 "Region I" includes the counties of Okanogan, Ferry, Stevens, Pend
16 Oreille, Lincoln, Spokane, Adams, Whitman, Columbia, Garfield, and
17 Asotin.

18 "Region II" includes the counties of Chelan, Douglas, Grant,
19 Kittitas, Yakima, Benton, Franklin, Klickitat, and Walla Walla.

20 "Region III and IV" includes the counties of King, Jefferson,
21 Clallam, Snohomish, Skagit, Whatcom, Island, and San Juan.

22 "Region V" includes the counties of Pierce, Thurston, Mason, Grays
23 Harbor, and Kitsap.

24 "Region VI" includes the counties of Lewis, Wahkiakum, Cowlitz,
25 Clark, Skamania, and Pacific.

26 (2) Regional service centers shall meet criteria established by the
27 office of deaf services and hold articles of incorporation for
28 nonprofit organizations established by the secretary of state.

1 (3) Regional service centers shall establish advisory committees
2 for each region to meet regularly. Members of the regional advisory
3 committee must be voting members of the board of directors of the
4 regional service centers.

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** A regional service center is prohibited
6 from performing activities that are regulated under chapter 18.35 RCW.
7 A regional service center shall provide, upon request, a deaf person or
8 hard of hearing person with a list of persons in the geographic area of
9 the center licensed under chapter 18.35 RCW to provide services
10 regulated under chapter 18.35 RCW. The deaf person or hard of hearing
11 person may voluntarily select any person from the list to perform the
12 services. A regional service center may in no manner recommend or
13 refer one person on the list over another person on the list.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** The office in consultation with the state
15 advisory committee shall recommend programs to and establish criteria
16 for regional service centers. The office shall award contracts to
17 qualified regional service centers representing the deaf and hard of
18 hearing population within each region.

19 **Sec. 7.** RCW 43.20A.360 and 1989 1st ex.s. c 9 s 214 and 1989 c 11
20 s 14 are each reenacted and amended to read as follows:

21 (1) The secretary is hereby authorized to appoint such advisory
22 committees or councils as may be required by any federal legislation as
23 a condition to the receipt of federal funds by the department. The
24 secretary may appoint state-wide committees or councils in the
25 following subject areas: (a) Health facilities; (b) children and youth
26 services; (c) blind services; (d) medical and health care; (e) deaf
27 services; (f) drug abuse and alcoholism; (~~(f)~~) (g) social services;

1 (~~(g)~~) (h) economic services; (~~(h)~~) (i) vocational services; (~~(i)~~)
2 (j) rehabilitative services; and on such other subject matters as are
3 or come within the department's responsibilities. The secretary shall
4 appoint committees or councils advisory to the department in each
5 service delivery region to be designated by the secretary. The
6 state-wide and the regional councils shall have representation from
7 both major political parties and shall have substantial consumer
8 representation and appropriate geographical representation. Such
9 committees or councils shall be constituted as required by federal law
10 or as the secretary in his or her discretion may determine. The
11 members of the committees or councils shall hold office for three years
12 except in the case of a vacancy, in which event appointment shall be
13 only for the remainder of the unexpired term for which the vacancy
14 occurs. No member shall serve more than two consecutive terms.

15 (2) Members of such state advisory committees or councils may be
16 paid their travel expenses in accordance with RCW 43.03.050 and
17 43.03.060 as now existing or hereafter amended. Members of regional
18 advisory committees may, in the discretion of the secretary, be paid
19 the same travel expenses as set forth above.

20 NEW SECTION. Sec. 8. If specific funding for the purposes of
21 this act, referencing this act by bill number, is not provided by June
22 30, 1991, in the omnibus appropriations act, this act shall be null and
23 void.

24 NEW SECTION. Sec. 9. Sections 1 through 6 of this act are each
25 added to chapter 43.20A RCW.