
SENATE BILL 5458

State of Washington 52nd Legislature 1991 Regular Session

By Senators L. Smith, Jesernig, Bauer and Newhouse.

Read first time January 31, 1991. Referred to Committee on Health & Long-Term Care.

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 making an appropriation.

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 5 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.** The office in consultation with the state
6 advisory committee shall recommend programs to and establish criteria
7 for regional service centers. The office shall award contracts to
8 qualified regional service centers representing the deaf and hard of
9 hearing population within each region.

10 **Sec. 6.** RCW 43.20A.360 and 1989 1st ex.s. c 9 s 214 and 1989 c 11
11 s 14 are each reenacted and amended to read as follows:

12 (1) The secretary is hereby authorized to appoint such advisory
13 committees or councils as may be required by any federal legislation as
14 a condition to the receipt of federal funds by the department. The
15 secretary may appoint state-wide committees or councils in the
16 following subject areas: (a) Health facilities; (b) children and youth
17 services; (c) blind services; (d) medical and health care; (e) deaf
18 services; ~~((f))~~ (g) social services;
19 ~~((g))~~ (h) economic services; ~~((h))~~ (i) vocational services; ~~((i))~~
20 (j) rehabilitative services; and on such other subject matters as are
21 or come within the department's responsibilities. The secretary shall
22 appoint committees or councils advisory to the department in each
23 service delivery region to be designated by the secretary. The
24 state-wide and the regional councils shall have representation from
25 both major political parties and shall have substantial consumer
26 representation and appropriate geographical representation. Such
27 committees or councils shall be constituted as required by federal law
28 or as the secretary in his or her discretion may determine. The

1 members of the committees or councils shall hold office for three years
2 except in the case of a vacancy, in which event appointment shall be
3 only for the remainder of the unexpired term for which the vacancy
4 occurs. No member shall serve more than two consecutive terms.

5 (2) Members of such state advisory committees or councils may be
6 paid their travel expenses in accordance with RCW 43.03.050 and
7 43.03.060 as now existing or hereafter amended. Members of regional
8 advisory committees may, in the discretion of the secretary, be paid
9 the same travel expenses as set forth above.

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** The sum of one million forty-six thousand
11 five hundred dollars, or as much thereof as may be necessary, is
12 appropriated from the general fund to the department of social and
13 health services for the biennium ending June 30, 1993, to carry out the
14 purposes of this act. The appropriation shall be distributed to the
15 regions based upon their need and taking into consideration the
16 availability of other state and local funding sources.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** Sections 1 through 5 of this act are each
18 added to chapter 43.20A RCW.