
HOUSE BILL 2676

State of Washington

58th Legislature

2004 Regular Session

By Representatives Kenney, Shabro, Dickerson, Morrell, Chase, Romero, Kagi and Lovick

Read first time 01/19/2004. Referred to Committee on Higher Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to education programs for teachers of the deaf and
2 hard of hearing; and adding new sections to Title 28B RCW.

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

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

6 (1) The legislature finds that improving education and services for
7 children who are deaf or hard of hearing requires a corps of highly
8 trained teachers, knowledgeable of the most recent research and
9 pedagogy, and competent to address the full range of communication and
10 educational options for their students.

11 (2) The legislature also finds that the preservice training and
12 professional development necessary to create such a corps of teachers
13 are not currently available through teacher preparation or in-service
14 programs in Washington.

15 (3) Therefore the legislature intends to provide an incentive for
16 institutions of higher education to develop curricula, design education
17 and training programs, and use innovative service delivery models for
18 teachers of the deaf and hard of hearing.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to Title 28B RCW to
2 read as follows:

3 (1) Subject to legislative appropriation, the higher education
4 coordinating board may award, on a competitive basis, grants to public
5 institutions of higher education or consortia of institutions to
6 develop education programs for teachers of the deaf and hard of
7 hearing.

8 (2) The board shall develop guidelines for grant proposals,
9 including:

10 (a) Developing interdisciplinary curricula that cover the full
11 range of communication options for deaf and hard of hearing children,
12 including oral communication, American sign language, total
13 communication, and other communication modes. Program curricula shall
14 also address the full range of education for deaf and hard of hearing
15 children, including early intervention services, education in
16 mainstream classrooms, and education in separate learning environments
17 with other deaf and hard of hearing students;

18 (b) Using service delivery models that reach future and current
19 teachers across the state in a cost-effective manner; and

20 (c) Incorporating the curricula into both teacher preparation and
21 in-service programs and addressing the needs of both classroom teachers
22 and itinerant teachers.

23 (3) Priority shall be given to proposals from consortia of
24 institutions working in collaboration and proposals with the greatest
25 potential to reach a maximum number of teachers across the state.

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