(DIGEST AS ENACTED)

Declares an intent to assist school districts in their efforts to attract teachers who are especially trained to work with deaf and hard of hearing students by directing the state board of education to establish a certification endorsement for teachers of the deaf and hard of hearing.

Requires the agency responsible for teacher certification to develop certification endorsement requirements for teachers of deaf and hard of hearing students. The endorsement shall be focused on the specific skills and knowledge necessary to serve the education and communication needs of deaf and hard of hearing students. In establishing rules for the endorsement of teachers who will be working almost exclusively with students who are deaf or hard of hearing, the agency shall consider applicants to have met state endorsement requirements if they possess a baccalaureate or master's degree in deaf education from a teacher training program approved by the council on education of the deaf.