
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1144

State of Washington 63rd Legislature 2013 Regular Session

By House Education (originally sponsored by Representatives Dahlquist, Lytton, Fagan, Haigh, Moscoso, Magendanz, Lias, Ryu, and Santos)

READ FIRST TIME 02/13/13.

1 AN ACT Relating to qualifications for educational interpreters;
2 adding a new section to chapter 28A.410 RCW; and creating a new
3 section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that although the
6 professional educator standards board has begun work on standards and
7 assessments for educational interpreters as directed by the 2012
8 supplemental operating budget, there is a need formally to codify this
9 as an ongoing responsibility. The legislature also intends to specify
10 how the standards and assessments will be used to improve learning
11 opportunities for students who are deaf, deaf-blind, or hearing
12 impaired.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.410
14 RCW to read as follows:

15 (1) The definitions in this subsection apply throughout this
16 section.

17 (a) "Educational interpreters" means school district employees,

1 whether certificated or classified, providing sign language translation
2 and further explanation of concepts introduced by the teacher for
3 students who are deaf, deaf-blind, or hearing impaired.

4 (b) "Educational interpreter assessment" means an assessment that
5 includes both written assessment and performance assessment that is
6 offered by a national organization of professional sign language
7 interpreters and transliterators, and is designed to assess performance
8 in more than one sign system or sign language.

9 (2) The professional educator standards board shall adopt standards
10 for educational interpreters and identify and publicize educational
11 interpreter assessments that are available and meet the definition in
12 this section. The board shall establish a performance standard for
13 each educational interpreter assessment for the purposes of this
14 section, defining what constitutes a minimum assessment result.

15 (3) By the beginning of the 2016-17 school year, educational
16 interpreters who are employed by school districts must have
17 successfully achieved the performance standard established by the
18 professional educator standards board on one of the educational
19 interpreter assessments identified by the board.

20 (4) By the beginning of the 2019-20 school year, educational
21 interpreters who are employed by school districts must meet the
22 requirements of subsection (3) of this section, plus achieve national
23 interpreter certification by the national association of the deaf
24 registry of interpreters for the deaf.

25 (5) The provisions of this section do not apply to educational
26 interpreters employed to interpret a sign system or sign language for
27 which no educational interpreter assessment has been identified by the
28 professional educator standards board.

--- END ---