

# House Bill 3206

Sponsored by Representative WILLIAMSON, Senator THOMSEN; Representatives KENY-GUYER, SANCHEZ, Senators DEMBROW, MONNES ANDERSON

## SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Requires Department of Human Services to administer program to make support service providers available to individuals who are deaf-blind. Describes program.

## A BILL FOR AN ACT

1  
2 Relating to persons providing support services to individuals who are deaf-blind.

3 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

4 **SECTION 1. (1) As used in this section:**

5 (a) **“Preferred communication mode” includes but is not limited to:**

6 (A) **Auditory amplification, such as personal hearing aids or assistive listening devices;**

7 (B) **American Sign Language;**

8 (C) **Tactile American Sign Language; and**

9 (D) **Signed English.**

10 (b) **“Support service provider” means a person who is specially trained to support the**  
11 **autonomy and independence of individuals who are deaf-blind in accessing their environments**  
12 **and making their own informed decisions. A support service provider does not:**

13 (A) **Provide personal care for, run errands for, or make decisions for an individual who**  
14 **is deaf-blind;**

15 (B) **Teach or instruct an individual who is deaf-blind; or**

16 (C) **Interpret for an individual who is deaf-blind in formal settings, such as medical, legal**  
17 **or business matters.**

18 (2) **The Department of Human Services shall administer statewide a program to make**  
19 **available support service providers to support individuals who are deaf-blind by providing:**

20 (a) **Visual and environmental information;**

21 (b) **Sighted guide services; and**

22 (c) **Communication accessibility in the deaf-blind person’s preferred language and com-**  
23 **munication mode.**

24 (3) **The department shall adopt rules necessary to administer the program described in**  
25 **subsection (2) of this section to serve as many individuals who are deaf-blind as is practica-**  
26 **ble, including rules:**

27 (a) **Prescribing the professional training, experience and skill requirements for support**  
28 **service providers.**

29 (b) **Establishing a pay rate for support service providers that utilizes a tiered wage scale**  
30 **based on the support service provider’s:**

31 (A) **Training, experience and skills;**

**NOTE:** Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

- 1       **(B) Fluency in various deaf-blind communication modes; and**
  - 2       **(C) Level of training or experience in using various mobility techniques with individuals**
  - 3 **who are deaf-blind.**
  - 4       **(c) Establishing a quality control system to monitor compliance by support service pro-**
  - 5 **viders with program rules adopted by the department.**
  - 6       **(4) The department shall providing funding and technical assistance for training support**
  - 7 **service providers and training individuals who are deaf-blind in effectively using support**
  - 8 **service providers.**
  - 9       **(5) The department shall convene a stakeholder advisory committee that includes indi-**
  - 10 **viduals who are deaf-blind to advise the department in the development of policies for the**
  - 11 **program described in this section to ensure the quality of support service providers and the**
  - 12 **efficient use of state funds.**
  - 13       **(6) The department may accept gifts, grants or contributions from any source, whether**
  - 14 **public or private, to support the program and activities described in this section.**
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