



February 5, 2023

**SUMMARY OF BILL:** Requires the Tennessee School of the Deaf, together with the West Tennessee School of the Deaf, to maintain a deaf mentor parent advisor program to assist families in implementing home-based programming for young children who are deaf, hearing-impaired, or deaf-blind. Requires the project to consist of three programs with one located in each of the Tennessee School for the Deaf campuses in Jackson, Knoxville, and Nashville. Requires the program to make deaf mentors available to hearing parents of children who are deaf, hearing-impaired, or deaf-blind so as to expose the parents to American Sign Language and deaf culture.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

**Increase State Expenditures - \$421,800/FY23-24 and Subsequent Years**

**Other Fiscal Impact – The current deaf mentor parent advisor program is funded in FY22-23 with a non-recurring appropriation of \$421,800.**

Assumptions:

- Public Chapter 500 of the 111<sup>th</sup> General Assembly enacted a one-year deaf mentor pilot project to be implemented at the Tennessee School for the Deaf, Knoxville campus.
- Public Chapter 500 further authorized the Department of Education (DOE), at the end of the pilot project, to determine whether the pilot project should be continued or replicated.
- The non-recurring appropriation of \$147,700 was made in FY19-20 for the purposes of the pilot program.
- DOE decided to continue the deaf mentor program following the conclusion of the pilot project and the program is currently funded at \$421,800 for FY22-23. Prior non-recurring appropriation for the program was in the amount of \$400,000 for FY21-22. Of that \$400,000, \$335,436 was unspent.
- The program includes 11 deaf mentors, 4 snapshot guides, and 12 parent advisors that serve 27 children and their families.
- Based on information provided by DOE, the current appropriation amount of \$421,800 is estimated to be sufficient to continue and expand the program on a recurring basis.

**CERTIFICATION:**

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Handwritten signature of Krista Lee Carsner in black ink.

Krista Lee Carsner, Executive Director

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