
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1303

State of Washington 65th Legislature 2017 Regular Session

By House Education (originally sponsored by Representatives Stambaugh, Bergquist, Stokesbary, Stonier, Muri, Young, and Senn)

1 AN ACT Relating to educational interpreters; amending RCW
2 28A.410.271; creating a new section; and declaring an emergency.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 28A.410.271 and 2013 c 151 s 2 are each amended to
5 read as follows:

6 (1) The definitions in this subsection apply throughout this
7 section unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

8 (a) "Educational interpreters" means school district employees,
9 whether certificated or classified, providing sign language
10 (~~translation~~) interpretation, transliteration, or both, and further
11 explanation of concepts introduced by the teacher for students who
12 are deaf, deaf-blind, or hard of hearing (~~impaired~~).

13 (b) "Educational interpreter assessment" means an assessment that
14 includes both written assessment and performance assessment that is
15 offered by a national organization of professional sign language
16 interpreters and transliterators, and is designed to assess
17 performance in more than one sign system or sign language.

18 (c) "Interpretation" means conveying one language in the form of
19 another language.

20 (d) "Transliteration" means conveying one language in a different
21 modality of the same language.

1 (2) The professional educator standards board shall:

2 (a) Adopt standards for educational interpreters and identify and
3 publicize educational interpreter assessments that are available and
4 meet the ((definition)) requirements in this section((. The board
5 shall)); and

6 (b) Establish a performance standard for each educational
7 interpreter assessment for the purposes of this section, defining
8 what constitutes a minimum assessment result.

9 (3)(a) Except as otherwise provided by this section, by the
10 beginning of the 2016-17 school year, educational interpreters who
11 are employed by school districts must have successfully achieved the
12 performance standard established by the professional educator
13 standards board on one of the educational interpreter assessments
14 identified by the board. Evaluations and assessments for educational
15 interpreters for which the board has not established a performance
16 standard may be obtained as supplemental demonstrations of
17 professional proficiency but may not be used as evidence of
18 compliance with this subsection (3)(a).

19 (b) An educational interpreter who has not successfully achieved
20 the performance standard required by (a) of this subsection may
21 provide or continue providing educational interpreter services to
22 students for one calendar year after receipt of his or her most
23 recent educational interpreter assessment results, or eighteen months
24 after completing his or her most recent educational interpreter
25 assessment, whichever period is longer, if he or she can demonstrate
26 to the satisfaction of the employing school or school district,
27 ongoing efforts to successfully achieve the required performance
28 standard. In making a determination under this subsection (3)(b), the
29 employing school or school district may consult with the professional
30 educator standards board. For purposes of this subsection (3)(b),
31 "educational interpreter" includes persons employed as educational
32 interpreters before the 2016-17 school year.

33 (4) By December 31, 2013, the professional educator standards
34 board shall recommend to the education committees of the house of
35 representatives and the senate((7)) how to appropriately use the
36 national interpreter certification and the educational interpreter
37 performance assessment for educational interpreters in Washington
38 public schools.

39 (5) The provisions of this section do not apply to educational
40 interpreters employed to interpret a sign system or sign language.

1 including nonsigning interpretation such as oral interpreting,
2 computer-assisted real time captioning, and cued speech
3 transliteration, for which ((no educational interpreter assessment
4 has been identified by the professional educator standards board)) an
5 educational interpreter assessment either does not exist or, as
6 determined by the professional educator standards board, is not
7 capable of being evaluated by the board for suitability as a
8 performance standard in Washington.

9 NEW SECTION. Sec. 2. By December 1, 2017, the office of the
10 superintendent of public instruction shall submit to the education
11 committees of the house of representatives and the senate, a report
12 evaluating the costs, associated timelines, and feasibility of
13 conducting or contracting for a peer review of the educational signed
14 skills evaluation. The report, and any associated recommendations,
15 must be submitted in accordance with RCW 43.01.036.

16 NEW SECTION. Sec. 3. This act is necessary for the immediate
17 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of
18 the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes
19 effect immediately.

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