

By Senator Altman

16-00625B-16

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1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to educational interpreters for
3 individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing, or dual
4 sensory impaired; amending s. 1012.01, F.S.; defining
5 the term "educational interpreters" for inclusion in
6 the classification of instructional personnel;
7 creating s. 1012.47, F.S.; requiring the State Board
8 of Education to adopt rules; providing qualifications
9 for persons functioning as educational interpreters
10 which must be met by a specified date; providing
11 duties of the Department of Education; providing an
12 effective date.

13
14 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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16 Section 1. Paragraph (f) is added to subsection (2) of
17 section 1012.01, Florida Statutes, to read:

18 1012.01 Definitions.—As used in this chapter, the following
19 terms have the following meanings:

20 (2) INSTRUCTIONAL PERSONNEL.—"Instructional personnel"
21 means any K-12 staff member whose function includes the
22 provision of direct instructional services to students.
23 Instructional personnel also includes K-12 personnel whose
24 functions provide direct support in the learning process of
25 students. Included in the classification of instructional
26 personnel are the following K-12 personnel:

27 (f) Educational interpreters.—Educational interpreters are
28 individuals who are school personnel or contracted personnel
29 whose function is to facilitate communication between students

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30 who are deaf, hard of hearing, or dual sensory impaired and all
31 other participants in the academic classroom, other education-
32 related activities, and extracurricular activities, as
33 designated in a student's individual education plan or 504
34 accommodation plan.

35 Section 2. Section 1012.47, Florida Statutes, is created to
36 read:

37 1012.47 Qualifications for persons functioning as
38 educational interpreters.-

39 (1) The State Board of Education shall adopt rules to
40 prescribe qualifications for educational interpreters, as
41 defined in s. 1012.01(2)(f), pursuant to the minimum
42 qualifications required under this section.

43 (2) By July 1, 2021, and thereafter, an individual who
44 functions as an educational interpreter shall have:

45 (a) Passed the Educational Interpreter Performance
46 Assessment written test and received a minimum score of 4.0 on
47 the Educational Interpreter Performance Assessment performance
48 test.

49 (b) As an alternative to paragraph (a), received the Ed:K-
50 12 certification from the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf,
51 Inc.

52 (c) If providing Cued language transliteration, passed the
53 Educational Interpreter Performance Assessment written test and
54 received a minimum score of 4.0 on the Educational Interpreter
55 Performance Assessment-Cued Speech.

56 (3) The department shall provide technical assistance to
57 school districts to implement the minimum qualifications
58 required under this section and shall develop requirements for

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59 continuing education and skill development for educational
60 interpreters.

61 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2016.