

HOUSE MESSAGE SUMMARY

[s0162.hms]

BILL: CS/SB 162
SPONSOR: Committee on Education and Senators Wise and Fasano
SUBJECT: American Sign Language
PREPARED BY: Senate Committee on Education
DATE: April 29, 2003

I. Amendments Contained in Message:

House Amendment 1 – 636447 (body)

II. Summary of Amendments Contained in Message:

House Amendment 1 provides that two representatives from the Florida American Sign Language Teachers' Association (FASLTA) must be included in the American Sign Language (ASL) task force established by the bill. The amendment also changes certification timelines in the bill, providing that the State Board of Education must adopt rules establishing licensing/certification standards by January, 2005 (instead of January, 2004) and that teachers must obtain certification by a professional organization by January, 2006 (instead of January, 2004).

Additionally, the amendment provides that ASL teachers must obtain certification from FASLTA, rather than the national professional organization, ASLTA, as is currently provided in the bill. According to FASLTA personnel, while FASLTA currently assists Florida ASL teachers with obtaining national certification through ASLTA, FASLTA itself does not currently have a certification process or system in place – and does not currently provide certification to ASL teachers.

The bill also provides that FASLTA certification may be used by current ASL teachers as an “alternative certification track.” Under CS/SB 162, ASL teachers must obtain certification by both the Department of Education and ASLTA. The amendment language apparently would change this requirement so that teachers need only obtain FASLTA certification.