

By Senator Wise

5-01704A-10

20102484

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to auditory-oral education programs;
3 providing that a child who is deaf and enrolled in a
4 recognized auditory-oral program at a school certified
5 by a nationally recognized certifying body of
6 auditory-oral programs or at a private school in which
7 the supervisor and the majority of staff are certified
8 as Listening and Spoken Language Specialists may
9 continue attending such school and complete the
10 development of listening and spoken language skills if
11 specified criteria are met; providing that the level
12 of funding for tuition and costs be determined through
13 the individual education plan process; providing for
14 the transfer of the child to a public school or other
15 appropriate educational institution when the child
16 reaches the age of 7 or before grade 3, whichever
17 comes first; providing an effective date.

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19 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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21 Section 1. (1) Any child who is deaf and who is enrolled in
22 a recognized auditory-oral program at a school certified by a
23 nationally recognized certifying body of auditory-oral programs
24 to teach children who have obtained a hearing assistive device
25 or at a private school located in this state in which the
26 supervisor and the majority of the staff providing direct
27 services to the children are certified as Listening and Spoken
28 Language Specialists may continue attending such school and
29 complete the development of listening and spoken language skills

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30 if the child:

31 (a) Has received a cochlear implant or assistive hearing
32 device;

33 (b) Is between the ages of 2 and 7; and

34 (c) Is a resident of the state.

35 (2) The level of funding shall be determined through the
36 individual education plan process between the local school
37 district and the child's parent or guardian. Funding must cover
38 the costs of tuition and the costs associated with providing an
39 auditory-oral option. When the child reaches the age of 7 or
40 before grade 3, whichever comes first, he or she shall be
41 required to transfer to a public school or other appropriate
42 educational institution chosen by his or her parent or guardian.

43 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2010.