

HB 1391

2013

1 A bill to be entitled

2 An act relating to children who are deaf or hard of
3 hearing; providing legislative findings; requiring
4 health care providers to provide an opportunity for a
5 child's parent or legal guardian to provide contact
6 information so that he or she may receive information
7 from specified service providers when the hearing loss
8 is identified; requiring the Department of Health to
9 register certain service providers and institutions;
10 allowing a parent or legal guardian to request
11 services from a participating service provider;
12 providing that the level of services received is based
13 on the child's individualized education program or
14 individual and family service plan; providing for
15 eligibility; providing a funding formula; requiring
16 the department to develop standards for participating
17 service providers; authorizing the department to adopt
18 rules; providing an effective date.

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

21
22 Section 1. Children who are deaf or hard of hearing;
23 instruction.-

24 (1) The Legislature finds that children who are deaf or
25 hard of hearing are entitled to an individual and family service
26 plan, as defined in s. 411.202, Florida Statutes, or an
27 individualized education program, as defined in s. 1003.55,
28 Florida Statutes, to better accommodate the specific needs of

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29 | the child and his or her family. The Legislature also finds that
30 | the instruction of children who are deaf or hard of hearing
31 | should be expanded to include center-based programs and
32 | services. Allowing a child's parent or legal guardian the
33 | opportunity to provide his or her mailing address or e-mail
34 | address to registered service providers will enhance access to
35 | information about critical services and service providers.

36 | (2) (a) In cooperation with the Department of Education,
37 | the Department of Health shall develop standards for the
38 | selection of registered service providers or institutions to
39 | provide the services or instruction identified in paragraph (b)
40 | to children who are deaf or hard of hearing.

41 | (b) At the time that a child's hearing loss is identified,
42 | the health care provider shall ask the child's parent or legal
43 | guardian to provide a mailing address or an e-mail address if he
44 | or she wishes to receive correspondence from registered
45 | providers or institutions that offer diagnostic and evaluation
46 | services; speech and language pathology services; interpretation
47 | and auditory amplification; auditory-oral education; services
48 | provided by a certified listening and spoken language
49 | specialist; and other such services as approved by department
50 | rule.

51 | (c) In addition to newborn hearing screening providers
52 | offering services pursuant to s. 383.145, the Department of
53 | Health shall register service providers or institutions that
54 | provide services or instruction to children who are deaf or hard
55 | of hearing and are currently licensed, approved, or accredited
56 | by:

- 57 | 1. The Florida Kindergarten Council;
- 58 | 2. The Florida Council of Independent Schools;
- 59 | 3. The John M. McKay Scholarships for Students with
- 60 | Disabilities Program; or
- 61 | 4. The Office of Early Learning.

62 | (d) Other institutions or direct service providers may not
 63 | participate unless the Department of Health approves them for
 64 | inclusion on the list of registered providers.

65 | (3) A parent or legal guardian of a deaf or hard of
 66 | hearing child may request services from a registered service
 67 | provider or institution. The level of services is determined by
 68 | the child's individualized education program or individual and
 69 | family service plan. A child is eligible for services with a
 70 | registered provider or institution under this section until the
 71 | end of the school year in which he or she reaches the age of 7
 72 | years or after completion of grade 2, whichever occurs first.
 73 | The amount allocated for a child eligible for services under
 74 | this section must be equivalent to the base student allocation
 75 | in the Florida Education Finance Program multiplied by the
 76 | support level V cost factor specified in the matrix of services
 77 | established in s. 1011.62, Florida Statutes.

78 | (4) The Department of Health shall adopt by rule the
 79 | standards for the selection of service providers and may adopt
 80 | other rules necessary to implement and administer this section.

81 | Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2013.