

By the Committees on Appropriations; and Education; and Senators Altman, Garcia, Bean, and Bradley

576-04943-13

2013150c2

1 A bill to be entitled

2 An act relating to deaf and hard-of-hearing students;
3 amending s. 1003.55, F.S.; requiring that a student's
4 language and communication needs, including certain
5 opportunities, be considered in the development of an
6 individual education plan for a deaf or hard-of-
7 hearing student; requiring the Department of Education
8 to develop a model communication plan to be used in
9 the development of an individual education plan for
10 deaf or hard-of-hearing students; requiring the
11 department to disseminate the model communication plan
12 to each school district and provide technical
13 assistance; providing an effective date.

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

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17 Section 1. Subsection (6) is added to section 1003.55,
18 Florida Statutes, to read:

19 1003.55 Instructional programs for blind or visually
20 impaired students and deaf or hard-of-hearing students.—

21 (6) (a) In developing an individual education plan for a
22 deaf or hard-of-hearing student, the individual education plan
23 team must consider the student's language and communication
24 needs, opportunities for direct communication with peers and
25 professional personnel in the student's language and
26 communication mode, and the student's academic level and full
27 range of needs, including opportunities for direct instruction
28 in the student's language and communication mode.

29 (b) The Department of Education, in coordination with the

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30 Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind and with input from
31 education stakeholders, including representatives of the
32 auditory-oral community, shall develop a model communication
33 plan that shall be used during the development of a student's
34 individual education plan. The model communication plan shall be
35 adopted in rule by the State Board of Education and made
36 available online to all school districts no later than December
37 31, 2013. The department shall provide technical assistance for
38 using the model communication plan.

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