

HB 705

2016

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.; providing minimum  
8           qualifications for persons functioning as educational  
9           interpreters; providing a timeline for compliance;  
10          providing the State Board of Education with rulemaking  
11          authority; providing duties of the Department of  
12          Education; providing an 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  
19          following 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  
30 who are deaf, hard of hearing, or dual sensory impaired and all  
31 other participants in the academic classroom and all other  
32 education-related and extracurricular activities, as designated  
33 in a student's individual education plan or 504 accommodation  
34 plan.

35 Section 2. Section 1012.47, Florida Statutes, is created  
36 to 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 provided in 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

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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  
59 continuing education and skill development for educational  
60 interpreters.

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