

By the Committee on Education Pre-K - 12; and Senators Altman and Soto

581-02944-16

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1 A bill to be entitled

2 An act relating to qualifications for educational
3 interpreters; creating s. 1012.441, F.S.; requiring
4 the State Board of Education to adopt standards for
5 educational interpreters; requiring school districts
6 to notify parents if an individual assigned to provide
7 interpreter services for their student does not meet
8 such standards; requiring school districts to report
9 to the Department of Education, for publication on its
10 website, certain information regarding individuals
11 providing interpreter services; providing an effective
12 date.

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

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16 Section 1. Section 1012.441, Florida Statutes, is created
17 to read:

18 1012.441 Qualifications for educational interpreters.—

19 (1) The State Board of Education shall adopt by rule
20 standards for educational interpreters. An educational
21 interpreter is an individual who facilitates direct instruction
22 by professionals and directs communication between students who
23 are deaf or hard of hearing and their peers as designated in
24 each student's individual education plan or 504 accommodation
25 plan. The standards must include interpreter assessments,
26 including both written and performance assessments, offered by a
27 national organization of professional sign language interpreters
28 and transliterators.

29 (2) Beginning July 1, 2017, each school district shall:

30 (a) Notify a parent in writing if an individual assigned to
31 provide interpreter services for his or her student, in

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32 accordance with the student's individual education plan or 504
33 accommodation plan, does not meet the educational interpreter
34 standards established in state board rule.

35 (b) Report to the Department of Education, for publication
36 on its website, the total number of individuals providing
37 interpreter services in the district and the total number of
38 such individuals who meet the educational interpreter standards
39 established in state board rule.

40 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2016.