

3/3/97 Human Res

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SENATE FILE 255
BY SZYMONIAK

Passed Senate, Date _____ Passed House, Date _____
Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____ Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____
Approved _____

A BILL FOR

1 An Act establishing a task force on interpretive services for
2 deaf and hard-of-hearing individuals.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

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S.F. 255

1 Section 1. INTERPRETIVE SERVICES TASK FORCE.

2 1. The division of deaf services of the department of
3 human rights shall establish a task force to develop a plan to
4 identify a minimum standard of competency for individuals
5 practicing in this state as interpreters for deaf and hard-of-
6 hearing individuals.

7 2. The task force shall be comprised of representatives
8 from the commission on the deaf, the division of vocational
9 rehabilitation of the department of education, the Iowa state
10 registry of interpreters for the deaf, the Iowa association of
11 the deaf, the Iowa chapter of self help for the hard of
12 hearing, interpreter education programs at Iowa western
13 community college, Kirkwood community college, and Scott
14 community college, and other interested individuals, agencies,
15 and organizations as determined by the commission on the deaf.

16 3. The task force shall identify a minimum standard of
17 competency that deems an individual qualified to practice as
18 an interpreter, determine the best tool to measure that
19 standard, identify individuals practicing as interpreters in
20 the state, and develop a system to use the tool for statewide
21 evaluation of interpreters. The system developed shall be
22 made available at no cost to interpreters. The task force
23 shall additionally develop a procedure for collecting data
24 from the evaluations, and provide cost estimates for statewide
25 implementation of the system. The task force shall submit a
26 report containing its recommendations to the general assembly
27 within one year from the date of its formation.

28 EXPLANATION

29 This bill provides that the division of deaf services of
30 the department of human rights shall establish a task force on
31 interpretive services for deaf and hard-of-hearing people.
32 The task force shall be comprised of representatives of the
33 commission on the deaf, the division of vocational
34 rehabilitation of the department of education, the Iowa state
35 registry of interpreters for the deaf, the Iowa association of

1 the deaf, the Iowa chapter of self help for the hard of
2 hearing, interpreter education programs at Iowa western
3 community college, Kirkwood community college, and Scott
4 community college, and other interested individuals, agencies,
5 and organizations as determined by the commission on the deaf.

6 The task force shall identify a competency standard which
7 deems an individual qualified to practice as an interpreter
8 and determine the best tool to measure that standard, to be
9 available at no cost to interpreters undergoing evaluation.
10 The task force shall also determine a system for providing
11 statewide access to the evaluation tool, a procedure for
12 collecting evaluation data, and an estimate of statewide
13 implementation costs.

14 The task force shall submit a report of its recommendations
15 to the general assembly within one year of its formation.

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