

Senate Bill 795

Sponsored by Senators MONNES ANDERSON, MANNING JR; Senators BURDICK, GELSER, KNOPP, OLSEN, ROBLAN, Representatives ALONSO LEON, BYNUM, DOHERTY, EVANS

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Prescribes requirements for Oregon Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Services Program.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

Relating to Oregon Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Services Program; amending ORS 410.740.

Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:

SECTION 1. ORS 410.740 is amended to read:

410.740. (1) The Oregon Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Services Program is created in the Department of Human Services. The purpose of the program is to assist members of the public and state agencies in making agency programs available and accessible to individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing.

(2) The program [*may also provide the following*] **shall**:

(a) [*Identification and publicity of*] **Identify and publicize** the needs and concerns of individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing [*as their needs and concerns relate to the full achievement of*] **in accessing public services, social services, health care, education, early intervention, vocational training and rehabilitation, mental health services, housing, employment, emergency services, transportation, legal services, communication services and other resources in order for individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing to fully achieve** economic, social, legal and political equity.

(b) [*Advice to*] **Advise** the Department of Human Services, the Governor, the Legislative Assembly and appropriate state agency administrators on how state services for individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing [*might*] **can** be improved or better coordinated to meet the needs of these individuals.

(c) **Provide** information to individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing about where they may obtain assistance in rehabilitation and employment and about laws prohibiting discrimination in employment [*as a result of*] **based on** disability.

(d) [*Cooperation*] **Cooperate** with and **provide** assistance to interest groups [*in*] **concerned with the** rehabilitation and employment of individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing and [*encouragement of*] **encourage** public and private employers to undertake affirmative action to ensure equitable employment of individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing.

(e) [*Promotion of*] **Promote** a continuous program of information and education to employers and the general public to increase awareness of and sensitivity to the needs of individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing for equitable education and training that will ensure for these individuals their full vocational potential.

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 (f) *[Promotion of a continuous information]* **Encourage public and private employers to take**
 2 **affirmative steps to ensure that individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing have equal ac-**
 3 **cess to employment and maintain an ongoing** program for placement of individuals who are deaf
 4 or hard of hearing in suitable employment.

5 (g) **Cooperate with the Employment Department to study ways to eliminate unemploy-**
 6 **ment and underemployment of individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing.**

7 (h) **Cooperate with the Department of Education, universities and colleges and private**
 8 **educational institutions in this state to promote ongoing and expanded educational programs**
 9 **designed to increase the number of qualified interpreters, captioners and providers of**
 10 **assistive listening systems and other accommodation services.**

11 (i) **Develop and recommend uniform statewide standards and procedures for the quali-**
 12 **fication and certification of persons who provide communication or accommodation services**
 13 **to individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing.**

14 (j) **Study and report to the Department of Human Services on the development of**
 15 **assistive technology for individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing and promote the use of**
 16 **assistive technology as appropriate.**

17 (k) **Provide communication assistance to individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing with**
 18 **language deprivation or other disabilities in interactions with state and local agencies.**

19 (L) **Establish a program to increase the number of support service providers for individ-**
 20 **uals who are deaf or hard of hearing or who are deaf or hard of hearing with other disabili-**
 21 **ties.**

22 (m) **Provide advocates to assist individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing in accessing**
 23 **the services described in paragraph (a) of this subsection.**

24 (n) **Recommend to the Legislative Assembly statutory changes to improve:**

25 (A) **Access for individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing to the services described in**
 26 **paragraph (a) of this subsection;**

27 (B) **The accessibility of public buildings for individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing;**
 28 **and**

29 (C) **Access to qualified providers of accommodation services for individuals who are deaf**
 30 **or hard of hearing.**

31 (3)(a) The Director of Human Services shall appoint an advisory committee to advise the direc-
 32 tor regarding the program. The director shall consult with the advisory committee regarding the
 33 services described in this section.

34 (b) The director shall appoint to the advisory committee 12 individuals who have experience in
 35 issues that affect individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing.

36 (c) **A majority of the members of the advisory committee shall be deaf or hard of hearing**
 37 **including, to the greatest extent practicable, members who are deaf, hard of hearing, deaf-**
 38 **blind and who have a hearing loss and another disability.**