

SENATE
STATE OF MINNESOTA
NINETY-FIRST SESSION

S.F. No. 3012

(SENATE AUTHORS: ISAACSON)

DATE
02/11/2020

D-PG
4723

Introduction and first reading
Referred to E-12 Finance and Policy

OFFICIAL STATUS

- 1.1 A bill for an act
- 1.2 relating to education; modifying requirements for interpreters; amending Minnesota
- 1.3 Statutes 2018, section 122A.31, subdivision 1.
- 1.4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:
- 1.5 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2018, section 122A.31, subdivision 1, is amended to read:
- 1.6 Subdivision 1. **Requirements for American sign language/English interpreters.** (a)
- 1.7 In addition to any other requirements that a school district establishes, any person employed
- 1.8 to provide American sign language/English interpreting or sign transliterating services on
- 1.9 a full-time or part-time basis for a school district after July 1, 2000, must:
- 1.10 (1) hold current interpreter ~~and~~ or transliterator certificates awarded by the Registry of
- 1.11 Interpreters for the Deaf (RID), or the general level interpreter proficiency certificate awarded
- 1.12 by the National Association of the Deaf (NAD), or a comparable state certification from
- 1.13 the commissioner of education; ~~and~~
- 1.14 ~~(2)~~ satisfactorily complete an interpreter/transliterator training program affiliated with
- 1.15 an accredited educational institution; ~~or~~
- 1.16 (2) hold a certified deaf interpreter certification issued by RID.
- 1.17 (b) New graduates of an interpreter/transliterator program affiliated with an accredited
- 1.18 education institution or certified deaf interpreters who hold a certification issued by RID
- 1.19 shall be granted a two-year provisional certificate by the commissioner. During the two-year
- 1.20 provisional period, the interpreter/transliterator must develop and implement an education
- 1.21 plan in collaboration with a mentor under paragraph (c).

(c) A mentor of a provisionally certified interpreter/transliterater must be an interpreter/transliterater who has either NAD level IV or V certification or RID certified interpreter and certified transliterator certification and have at least three years of interpreting/transliterating experience in any educational setting. The mentor, in collaboration with the provisionally certified interpreter/transliterater, shall develop and implement an education plan designed to meet the requirements of paragraph (a), clause (1), and include a weekly on-site mentoring process.

(d) Consistent with the requirements of this paragraph, a person holding a provisional certificate may apply to the commissioner for one time-limited extension. The commissioner, in consultation with the Commission of the Deaf, DeafBlind and Hard of Hearing, must grant the person a time-limited extension of the provisional certificate based on the following documentation:

(1) letters of support from the person's mentor, a parent of a pupil the person serves, the special education director of the district in which the person is employed, and a representative from the regional service center of the deaf and hard-of-hearing;

(2) records of the person's formal education, training, experience, and progress on the person's education plan; and

(3) an explanation of why the extension is needed.

As a condition of receiving the extension, the person must comply with a plan and the accompanying ~~time-line~~ timeline for meeting the requirements of this subdivision. A committee composed of the deaf and hard-of-hearing state specialist, a representative of the Minnesota Association of Deaf Citizens, a representative of the Minnesota Registry of Interpreters ~~of~~ for the Deaf, and other appropriate ~~persons~~ committee members selected by the commissioner must develop the plan and ~~time-line~~ timeline for the person receiving the extension.

(e) A school district may employ only an interpreter/transliterater who has been certified under paragraph (a) or (b), or for whom a time-limited extension has been granted under paragraph (d).

(f) An interpreter who meets the requirements of paragraph (a) is "essential personnel" as defined in section 125A.76, subdivision 1.