

SENATE BILL NO. 525—COMMITTEE ON
HUMAN RESOURCES AND EDUCATION

(ON BEHALF OF THE LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION)

MARCH 26, 2007

Referred to Committee on Finance

SUMMARY—Makes appropriations for various programs relating to students who are deaf or hard of hearing. (BDR S-433)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No.

Effect on the State: Contains Appropriation not included in Executive Budget.

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EXPLANATION – Matter in *bolded italics* is new; matter between brackets ~~omitted material~~ is material to be omitted.

AN ACT relating to education; making appropriations to the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education and the Department of Education for various programs for teachers of students who are deaf or hard of hearing; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel's Digest:

1 This bill establishes, and makes appropriations for, several different programs
2 designed to train, recruit and support teachers of students who are deaf or hard of
3 hearing. **Section 1** of this bill makes an appropriation to the Western Interstate
4 Commission for Higher Education for stipends for certain students studying to
5 become teachers of students who are deaf or hard of hearing. **Sections 2-5** of this
6 bill make appropriations to the Department of Education to develop and expand
7 educational resources for students who are deaf or hard of hearing. **Section 2**
8 provides for signing bonuses for newly hired teachers of students who are deaf or
9 hard of hearing. **Section 3** provides an appropriation for distribution to school
10 districts for training stipends to be paid to teachers of and interpreters for students
11 who are deaf or hard of hearing. **Section 4** provides for a statewide mentoring
12 program for teachers of students who are deaf or hard of hearing. **Sections 5 and 6**
13 provide for a pilot program to establish regional or magnet elementary school
14 programs in counties whose population is less than 100,000 for students who are
15 deaf or hard of hearing.



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THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN
SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. 1. There is hereby appropriated from the State General Fund to the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education for stipends to certain students enrolled in programs that provide courses of study and training for the education of teachers of students who are deaf or hard of hearing:

For the Fiscal Year 2007-2008.....\$12,000

For the Fiscal Year 2008-2009.....\$24,000

2. The Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education shall use the money appropriated for the 2007-2008 Fiscal Year to pay stipends to two Nevada residents who are enrolled in higher education programs that provide courses of study and training for the education of teachers of students who are deaf or hard of hearing. Each student who is selected shall receive a stipend in the amount of \$6,000, and each stipend must bear interest at 8 percent per annum from the first day of the academic term for which the student received the stipend.

3. Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education shall use the money appropriated for the 2008-2009 Fiscal Year to continue to pay stipends for the two students who received stipends for the 2007-2008 Fiscal Year and to pay stipends for two additional students who are enrolled in programs that provide courses of study and training for the education of teachers of students who are deaf or hard of hearing. If a student who received a stipend for the 2007-2008 Fiscal Year does not continue in a program that provides courses of study and training for the education of teachers of students who are deaf or hard of hearing, the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education shall select an additional student to receive a stipend and use the money that would have otherwise been paid to the other student for the 2008-2009 Fiscal Year. Each student who is selected shall receive a stipend in the amount of \$6,000, and each stipend must bear interest at 8 percent per annum from the first day of the academic term for which the student received the stipend.

4. The Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education shall prescribe:

(a) A form for the application of students who wish to be considered for a stipend pursuant to this section;

(b) Criteria for the selection of students to receive a stipend pursuant to this section; and

(c) Terms and conditions of repayment of stipends for those students who are in default.



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5. Any balance of the sums appropriated by subsection 1 remaining at the end of the respective fiscal years must not be committed for expenditure after June 30 of the respective fiscal years by the entity to which the appropriation is made or any entity to which money from the appropriation is granted or otherwise transferred in any manner, and any portion of the appropriated money remaining must not be spent for any purpose after September 19, 2008, and September 18, 2009, respectively, by either the entity to which the money was appropriated or the entity to which the money was subsequently granted or transferred, and must be reverted to the State General Fund on or before September 19, 2008, and September 18, 2009, respectively.

Sec. 2. 1. There is hereby appropriated from the State General Fund to the Department of Education to provide signing bonuses to teachers of students who are deaf or hard of hearing who are newly hired by school districts:

For the Fiscal Year 2007-2008.....\$5,000

For the Fiscal Year 2008-2009.....\$5,000

2. A newly hired teacher of students who are deaf or hard of hearing may not receive a signing bonus pursuant to this section until he has taught for a school district in this State for at least 30 days. A teacher of students who are deaf or hard of hearing may receive this bonus in addition to any other bonuses available for newly hired teachers. A teacher of students who are deaf or hard of hearing who teaches for a school district in this State before July 1, 2007, and who subsequently transfers to another school district in this State is not eligible to receive a signing bonus pursuant to this section.

3. A school district that wishes to provide signing bonuses to its newly hired teachers of students who are deaf or hard of hearing shall submit information to the Department of Education, in a format prescribed by the Department, concerning the number of newly hired teachers of students who are deaf or hard of hearing for each fiscal year.

4. The Department of Education shall use the money appropriated by subsection 1 to provide signing bonuses to newly hired teachers of students who are deaf or hard of hearing for each fiscal year. The Department shall analyze the total number of newly hired teachers of students who are deaf or hard of hearing submitted by school districts pursuant to subsection 3 and determine the total amount of each signing bonus for each fiscal year. The amount of a bonus paid to each teacher must not exceed \$1,000.

5. Any balance of the sums appropriated by subsection 1 remaining at the end of the respective fiscal years must not be committed for expenditure after June 30 of the respective fiscal



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1 years by the entity to which the appropriation is made or any entity
2 to which money from the appropriation is granted or otherwise
3 transferred in any manner, and any portion of the appropriated
4 money remaining must not be spent for any purpose after
5 September 19, 2008, and September 18, 2009, respectively, by
6 either the entity to which the money was appropriated or the entity
7 to which the money was subsequently granted or transferred, and
8 must be reverted to the State General Fund on or before
9 September 19, 2008, and September 18, 2009, respectively.

10 **Sec. 3.** 1. There is hereby appropriated from the State
11 General Fund to the Department of Education for distribution to
12 school districts for training stipends to teachers of students who are
13 deaf or hard of hearing and interpreters for students who are deaf or
14 hard of hearing who are engaged in college or university course
15 work in the education of students who are deaf or hard of hearing:

16 For the Fiscal Year 2007-2008.....\$37,500

17 For the Fiscal Year 2008-2009.....\$37,500

18 2. A school district that wishes to provide training stipends to
19 teachers of and interpreters for students who are deaf or hard of
20 hearing shall submit information to the Department of Education, in
21 a format prescribed by the Department, concerning the number of
22 teachers of or interpreters for students who are deaf or hard of
23 hearing who are engaged in college or university course work in the
24 education of students who are deaf or hard of hearing for each fiscal
25 year.

26 3. The Department of Education shall use the money
27 appropriated by subsection 1 to pay training stipends to teachers of
28 or interpreters for students who are deaf or hard of hearing. The
29 Department shall analyze the total number of teachers of or
30 interpreters for students who are deaf or hard of hearing submitted
31 by school districts pursuant to subsection 2 and determine the total
32 number and amount of training stipends to be awarded each fiscal
33 year. The amount of a stipend paid to each teacher or interpreter
34 must not exceed \$500. The number of teachers who receive stipends
35 pursuant to this section must not exceed 50 for each fiscal year. The
36 number of interpreters who receive stipends pursuant to this section
37 must not exceed 25 for each fiscal year.

38 4. Any balance of the sums appropriated by subsection 1
39 remaining at the end of the respective fiscal years must not be
40 committed for expenditure after June 30 of the respective fiscal
41 years by the entity to which the appropriation is made or any entity
42 to which money from the appropriation is granted or otherwise
43 transferred in any manner, and any portion of the appropriated
44 money remaining must not be spent for any purpose after
45 September 19, 2008, and September 18, 2009, respectively, by



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1 either the entity to which the money was appropriated or the entity
2 to which the money was subsequently granted or transferred, and
3 must be reverted to the State General Fund on or before
4 September 19, 2008, and September 18, 2009, respectively.

5 **Sec. 4.** 1. There is hereby appropriated from the State
6 General Fund to the Department of Education to establish a
7 statewide mentoring program for teachers of students who are deaf
8 or hard of hearing:

9 For the Fiscal Year 2007-2008.....\$200,000
10 For the Fiscal Year 2008-2009.....\$200,000

11 2. The Department of Education shall use the money
12 appropriated by subsection 1 to provide for two consultants, one to
13 be based in the southern part of the State and one to be based in the
14 northern part of the State, to provide mentoring, training and
15 technical assistance to teachers of students who are deaf or hard of
16 hearing and to establish a multidisciplinary support and mentoring
17 network for such teachers.

18 3. Any remaining balance of the appropriation made by
19 subsection 1 must not be committed for expenditure after June 30,
20 2009, by the entity to which the appropriation is made or any entity
21 to which money from the appropriation is granted or otherwise
22 transferred in any manner, and any portion of the appropriated
23 money remaining must not be spent for any purpose after
24 September 18, 2009, by either the entity to which the money was
25 appropriated or the entity to which the money was subsequently
26 granted or transferred, and must be reverted to the State General
27 Fund on or before September 18, 2009.

28 **Sec. 5.** 1. There is hereby appropriated from the State
29 General Fund to the Department of Education the sum of \$275,000
30 for distribution to school districts to establish a pilot program in
31 accordance with section 6 of this act.

32 2. Any remaining balance of the appropriation made by
33 subsection 1 must not be committed for expenditure after June 30,
34 2009, by the entity to which the appropriation is made or any entity
35 to which money from the appropriation is granted or otherwise
36 transferred in any manner, and any portion of the appropriated
37 money remaining must not be spent for any purpose after
38 September 18, 2009, by either the entity to which the money was
39 appropriated or the entity to which the money was subsequently
40 granted or transferred, and must be reverted to the State General
41 Fund on or before September 18, 2009.

42 **Sec. 6.** 1. The Department of Education shall:

43 (a) Prescribe the form for an application to develop a magnet or
44 regional elementary school pilot program for students who are deaf
45 or hard of hearing;



(b) Prescribe the criteria for selection of a partnership between one or more school districts in counties whose population is less than 100,000 and that do not offer magnet or regional programs at the elementary level for students who are deaf or hard of hearing and a Deaf Studies program at an institution of the Nevada System of Higher Education to establish a pilot program; and

(c) Develop a uniform method for evaluation of the pilot program that provides a longitudinal analysis of statistical data.

2. A partnership between one or more school districts and the Deaf Studies program at an institution of the Nevada System of Higher Education that wishes to establish a pilot program pursuant to this section shall:

(a) On or before October 1, 2007, submit to the Department of Education an application on the form prescribed by the Department pursuant to subsection 1; and

(b) Agree to participate in the longitudinal evaluation of the pilot program developed by the Department pursuant to subsection 1.

3. An application submitted pursuant to subsection 2 must contain a plan for a pilot program. Such a plan must:

(a) Contain a budget for the 2007-2008 school year that expends not more than \$5,000 of the money appropriated by section 5 of this act to be used for the planning of the program and the surveying of parents and guardians of elementary age children who are deaf or hard of hearing to determine interest in a regional or magnet program.

(b) Contain a budget for the 2008-2009 school year with estimated costs for the transportation of students and estimated costs for additional school district personnel to implement the program, limited to not more than one teacher, two interpreters or aides and one speech pathologist.

(c) Set forth a plan for identifying the school to host the magnet or regional program and for transporting elementary school students who are deaf or hard of hearing to the host school.

(d) Set forth a plan for utilizing faculty and student assistance and any other resources available from the affiliated Deaf Studies program at an institution of the Nevada System of Higher Education.

4. If the Department of Education approves an application submitted by a partnership pursuant to subsections 2 and 3 to establish a pilot program, the Department shall provide to the partnership on or before December 1, 2007, a grant from the money appropriated by section 5 of this act for the implementation of that program based on the budgets submitted pursuant to subsection 3.



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1 5. The school districts participating in a pilot program pursuant
2 to this section:

3 (a) Are responsible for all costs associated with the building,
4 maintenance, utilities, administration and supplies for this pilot
5 program.

6 (b) Shall submit an evaluation of the pilot program on or before
7 November 1, 2008, to the Department of Education in a format
8 required by the Department.

9 6. On or before February 1, 2009, the Department of Education
10 shall submit a report to the Director of the Legislative Counsel
11 Bureau for transmission to the 75th Session of the Nevada
12 Legislature. The report must include, without limitation:

13 (a) An evaluation of the pilot program, including, without
14 limitation, the effect of the program on the academic achievement of
15 the pupils enrolled in the program; and

16 (b) Any recommendations for legislation relating to the pilot
17 program.

18 **Sec. 7.** This act becomes effective on July 1, 2007.

