House Bill 3206

Sponsored by Representative WILLIAMSON, Senator THOMSEN; Representatives KENY-GUYER, SANCHEZ, Senators DEMBROW, MONNES ANDERSON

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.

Requires Department of Human Services to administer program to make support service providers available to individuals who are deaf-blind. Describes program.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

Relating to persons providing support services to individuals who are deaf-blind.

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

SECTION 1. (1) As used in this section:

(a) “Preferred communication mode” includes but is not limited to:

(A) Auditory amplification, such as personal hearing aids or assistive listening devices;

(B) American Sign Language;

(C) Tactile American Sign Language; and

(D) Signed English.

(b) “Support service provider” means a person who is specially trained to support the autonomy and independence of individuals who are deaf-blind in accessing their environments and making their own informed decisions. A support service provider does not:

(A) Provide personal care for, run errands for, or make decisions for an individual who is deaf-blind;

(B) Teach or instruct an individual who is deaf-blind; or

(C) Interpret for an individual who is deaf-blind in formal settings, such as medical, legal or business matters.

(2) The Department of Human Services shall administer statewide a program to make available support service providers to support individuals who are deaf-blind by providing:

(a) Visual and environmental information;

(b) Sighted guide services; and

(c) Communication accessibility in the deaf-blind person's preferred language and communication mode.

(3) The department shall adopt rules necessary to administer the program described in subsection (2) of this section to serve as many individuals who are deaf-blind as is practicable, including rules:

(a) Prescribing the professional training, experience and skill requirements for support service providers.

(b) Establishing a pay rate for support service providers that utilizes a tiered wage scale based on the support service provider's:

(A) Training, experience and skills;

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.

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(B) Fluency in various deaf-blind communication modes; and
(C) Level of training or experience in using various mobility techniques with individuals
who are deaf-blind.
(c) Establishing a quality control system to monitor compliance by support service pro-
viders with program rules adopted by the department.
(4) The department shall providing funding and technical assistance for training support
service providers and training individuals who are deaf-blind in effectively using support
service providers.
(5) The department shall convene a stakeholder advisory committee that includes indi-
viduals who are deaf-blind to advise the department in the development of policies for the
program described in this section to ensure the quality of support service providers and the
efficient use of state funds.
(6) The department may accept gifts, grants or contributions from any source, whether
public or private, to support the program and activities described in this section.