HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Subject: Licensure requirements for teachers of deaf and hard-of-hearing students

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Overview

Establishes separate licensure requirements for teachers of oral/aural deaf education who do not use American sign language (ASL) to instruct their deaf and hard-of-hearing students. The proposed licensure requirements would obligate teachers of oral/aural deaf education to acquire minimum competency in ASL but would not subject these teachers to ASL guidelines already established in law.

1 **Teachers of deaf and hard-of-hearing students; licensure requirements.**

Subd. 2. Licensure for teaching oral/aural deaf education programs. (a) Directs the board of teaching to adopt a separate licensure rule for a candidate for a license or an applicant for a continuing license to teach oral/aural deaf education programs or to provide services to deaf and hard-of-hearing students in prekindergarten through grade 12.

(b) Directs the board to collaborate with representatives of parents and educators of deaf and hard-of-hearing students, post-secondary programs preparing teachers of deaf and hard-of-hearing students, and the department of children, families and learning in designing rule requirements for teaching oral/aural deaf education.

(c) Requires the rule for teaching oral/aural deaf education to reflect best practice research and to include advanced competencies in teaching deaf and hard-of-hearing students through oral/aural modes.

(d) Includes minimum competency in American sign language (ASL) as a licensure requirement for teachers of oral/aural deaf education. Excludes such teachers from other ASL guidelines established in law. Excludes the signed communication proficiency interview as a requirement for teachers of oral/aural deaf education.

(e) Includes appropriate continuing education requirements for teachers of oral/aural deaf education renewing this licensure.

2 **ASL guidelines.** Recodifies a cross reference. Exempts teachers of oral/aural deaf education from demonstrating proficiency in ASL as described in this section.