

BILL SUMMARY
1st Session of the 55th Legislature

Bill No.:	HB 1512
Version:	Introduced
Request Number:	5020
Author:	Rep. Kern
Date:	2/24/2015
Impact:	No significant fiscal impact

Research Analysis

HB 1512 modifies certification requirements for educational interpreters by adding interpreters that have achieved an EIPA score of Level 4. The measure permits a person to be employed as paraprofessional or teacher assistant to assist with deaf and hard of hearing students as determined by their IEP team. Paraprofessionals and teacher assistants employed on or after July 1, 2015, must score at the advanced level on the Sign Language Proficiency Interview (SLPI) within 3 years from the date of hire. The Oklahoma Schools for the Deaf may administer the SLPI and must maintain records of each SLPI. Any person currently employed as an educational interpreter must obtain a certification, as provided for in law, by July 1, 2018. Beginning July 1, 2015, individuals employed by a public school with EIPA credentials must work in the grade level covered by their credentials.

The State Department of Education must maintain a registry of educational interpreters. In turn, interpreters are responsible for registering with the Department and for submitting all current certification and certification levels annually. Any changes to a certification or certification levels must be reported to the Department and the employing school district within thirty days. School districts are prohibited from employing an educational interpreter unless the person meets certification requirements as provided for in law. School districts are required to biannually verify the certification and registration status of educational interpreters. Districts must provide a report to the Department detailing their verification of certification and registration. Additionally, school districts must conduct annual performance evaluations of educational interpreters. Under the measure, boards of education will be held responsible for paying or authorizing payment to an educational interpreter that does not have a valid certification.

Prepared By: Scott Tohlen

Fiscal Analysis

HB 1512, as introduced, relates to the Oklahoma Educational Interpreter for the Deaf Act. The measure is not anticipated to have a major fiscal impact. SDE personnel are still reviewing.

Prepared By: Andrea Kearney

Other Considerations

None

