

AN ACT

RELATING TO SCHOOL PERSONNEL; PROVIDING FOR AN ALTERNATIVE  
LICENSURE ASSESSMENT FOR TEACHERS WHO ARE DEAF OR HARD OF  
HEARING; DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

Section 1. A new section of the School Personnel Act is  
enacted to read:

"DEAF AND HARD-OF-HEARING TEACHERS--ALTERNATIVE  
LICENSURE ASSESSMENT--SAVING PROVISION.--

A. A person who has a degree from an accredited  
teacher education program and who is deaf or hard of hearing  
may elect to demonstrate competency for a level one, two or  
three license through a portfolio assessment in lieu of all or  
part of the New Mexico teacher assessment. A person who is  
deaf or hard of hearing may apply for a lower level of  
licensure if the person's portfolio assessment does not  
qualify the person for a higher level. The department shall  
promulgate rules on the requirements for the portfolio  
assessment and for who is eligible for licensure pursuant to  
this section. The department shall provide a process for  
portfolio review that includes the designation of a review  
committee consisting of:

(1) a teacher of deaf and hard-of-hearing  
students;

- (2) a sign language interpreter;
- (3) a school administrator from the New Mexico school for the deaf;
- (4) the parent of a deaf or hard-of-hearing student;
- (5) a deaf or hard-of-hearing teacher, if one is available; and
- (6) other appropriate persons as determined by the department.

B. Until the rules have been effective for a period deemed sufficient by the department for a deaf or hard-of-hearing person to submit a portfolio, any eligible deaf or hard-of-hearing person who has a degree from an accredited teacher education program shall be granted a temporary teaching license for the level of licensure for which the person will likely qualify when the person's portfolio is submitted to the department. The temporary teaching license shall be effective for no longer than two school years.

Section 2. EMERGENCY.--It is necessary for the public peace, health and safety that this act take effect immediately.

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