

1 HOUSE BILL NO. 328

2 INTRODUCED BY C. KEOGH

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4 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT PROVIDING REQUIREMENTS FOR EVALUATING AND
5 ASSESSING LANGUAGE AND LITERACY DEVELOPMENT IN DEAF AND HARD-OF-HEARING CHILDREN;
6 PROVIDING FOR THE SELECTION OF LANGUAGE-SPECIFIC EVALUATION AND ASSESSMENT TOOLS
7 AND THE SHARING OF THE TOOLS WITH PROVIDERS; AND PROVIDING FOR AN ANNUAL REPORT
8 REGARDING THE LANGUAGE AND LITERACY DEVELOPMENT OF DEAF AND HARD-OF-HEARING
9 CHILDREN."

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11 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

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13 NEW SECTION. **Section 1. Evaluation and assessment of language and literacy development in**
14 **deaf and hard-of-hearing children -- report.** (1) In providing early intervention services for deaf and hard-of-
15 hearing children and their families pursuant to Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, 20
16 U.S.C. 1431, et seq., the department of public health and human services shall ~~select one or more~~ PROVIDE A
17 LIST OF tools for qualified personnel to use in evaluating and assessing the language and literacy development
18 of deaf and hard-of-hearing children.

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(2) A tool:

20 (a) must be in a format that shows the stages of language development for English, for American sign
21 language, or for another language spoken in the child's home;

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(b) must be used by qualified personnel to track the development of deaf and hard-of-hearing

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children's expressive and receptive language acquisition and developmental stages toward literacy;

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(c) must be selected from existing instruments or assessments used to assess the development of all

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children from birth to 3 years of age; and

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(d) must be appropriate, in both content and administration, for use with deaf and hard-of-hearing

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children.

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(3) The tools may be used, as part of the assessment required by federal law, by a child's

1 individualized family service plan to track the child's progress and to establish or modify the child's
2 individualized family service plan.

3 (4) The department shall provide a list of tools selected pursuant to this section to providers of early
4 intervention services to track the language and literacy development of the deaf and hard-of-hearing children to
5 whom the provider is providing services.

6 (5) The department shall prepare an annual report, using existing data that is reported in compliance
7 with federal requirements, regarding the language and literacy development in deaf and hard-of-hearing
8 children from birth to 3 years of age. The department shall make the report available on its website.

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10 NEW SECTION. Section 2. Codification instruction. [Section 1] is intended to be codified as a new
11 part in Title 52, chapter 2, and the provisions of Title 52, chapter 2, apply to [section 1].

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