

HB 1798 -- LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT MILESTONES

SPONSOR: Fitzwater

This bill establishes an advisory committee, coordinated by the Missouri Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, to track the language development milestones of children who are deaf or hard of hearing from birth through age eight. The advisory committee shall consist of 13 members as specified in the bill and shall expire on July 1, 2020.

By January 31, 2020, the advisory committee shall develop specific action plans and make recommendations necessary to implement the assessment program.

Beginning July 1, 2020, an annual language assessment will be given to specified children through either certain early intervention services or the school district in which the child is enrolled.

The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, Department of Health and Senior Services, and the State School for the Deaf shall enter into interagency agreements with the commission to share statewide aggregated data. By January 31, 2020 and each January 31 thereafter, the commission shall publish a report that is specific to language and literacy developmental milestones of children who are deaf or hard of hearing for each age from birth through age eight.

This bill is similar to HB 1076 (2017) and SB 51 (2017).