The following constitutes the reasons for this bill and the purposes which are sought to be accomplished thereby:

Legislative Bill 965 proposes to establish a language assessment program for children who are deaf or hard of hearing in an effort to ensure these children have a strong language foundation for kindergarten readiness and academic success. The program shall assess, monitor, and track the language developmental milestones for children who are deaf or hard of hearing from birth through the age of five.

Pursuant to LB 965, the Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing shall appoint a fourteen member advisory committee to advise the commission regarding all aspects of the language assessment program.

Principal Introducer: ____________________________

Senator Mike McDonnell