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**SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6572**

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**State of Washington**

**62nd Legislature**

**2012 Regular Session**

**By** Senate Ways & Means (originally sponsored by Senators Harper, Schoesler, Hobbs, Swecker, Hatfield, Roach, Pridemore, Fain, Conway, Shin, and Benton)

READ FIRST TIME 02/07/12.

1 AN ACT Relating to interpreter services; and adding a new section  
2 to chapter 43.19 RCW.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 43.19 RCW  
5 to read as follows:

6 (1) The department shall establish a master contract for  
7 centralized scheduling of all in-person spoken language interpreter  
8 services for state executive agencies, except as provided in subsection  
9 (2) of this section, no later than January 1, 2013. The scheduling  
10 system shall:

11 (a) Require direct contracting with in-state language access  
12 providers certified or authorized by the state. When a state-certified  
13 or state-authorized in-state language access provider is not available,  
14 the state may use a language access provider with other certifications  
15 or qualifications deemed to meet state standards, including  
16 interpreters in other states;

17 (b) Have a centralized, secure, web-based tool that providers or  
18 state agencies will use to schedule appointments for interpreter  
19 services; and

1 (c) Have the ability for language access providers to be scheduled  
2 based on qualifications or previous experience.

3 Nothing in this subsection affects the ability to provide  
4 interpretive services through employed staff. K-12 schools and courts  
5 are exempt from the requirement to contract through the department.  
6 All other state executive agencies are required to contract through the  
7 department unless otherwise exempted.

8 (2) If the health care authority has completed a competitive  
9 procurement of a system comparable to that described in subsection (1)  
10 of this section prior to September 2013, it is exempt from the  
11 requirement to contract through the department. State executive  
12 agencies are also exempt from the requirement to contract through the  
13 department if they have a contract with the health care authority for  
14 language interpreter services prior to September 2013.

15 (3) If the health care authority has completed a competitive  
16 procurement of such a system prior to September 2013, the system  
17 procured for use by other state agencies shall, to the maximum extent  
18 possible, be consistent and coordinated with that system.

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