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SENATE BILL 6572

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State of Washington

62nd Legislature

2012 Regular Session

By Senators Harper, Schoesler, Hobbs, Swecker, Hatfield, Roach, Pridemore, Fain, Conway, Shin, and Benton

Read first time 02/01/12. Referred to Committee on Ways & Means.

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 or contracts  
7 for spoken language interpreter services for state executive agencies,  
8 except as provided in subsection (2) of this section. The department  
9 shall develop and implement a new model for delivery of such services  
10 no later than January 1, 2013. The model shall include:

11 (a) The requirement that the state contract with delivery  
12 organizations, including foreign language agencies, which employ or  
13 subcontract with in-state language access providers certified by the  
14 state. When a state-certified or state-authorized in-state language  
15 access provider or interpreter is not available, the delivery  
16 organization, including foreign language agencies, may use a provider  
17 with other certifications or qualifications deemed to meet state  
18 standards, including interpreters in other states;

1 (b) Development by the department in consultation with subject area  
2 experts of guidelines to assist in identifying the circumstances under  
3 which it is appropriate to use telephonic or video remote interpreting;  
4 and

5 (c) Provision of a secure, web-based tool that agencies will use to  
6 schedule appointments for interpreter services and to identify the most  
7 appropriate, cost-effective method of service delivery in accordance  
8 with the state guidelines.

9 Nothing in this subsection affects the ability to provide  
10 interpretive services through employed staff or through telephone and  
11 video remote technologies when not reimbursed directly by the  
12 department.

13 (2) If the health care authority has completed a competitive  
14 procurement of a system comparable to that described in subsection (1)  
15 of this section prior to September 2013, it is exempt from the  
16 requirement to contract through the department.

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

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