
HOUSE BILL 3071

State of Washington

55th Legislature

1998 Regular Session

By Representatives Dunn and Bush

Read first time 01/28/98. Referred to Committee on Children & Family Services.

1 AN ACT Relating to sign language interpreters and establishing
2 minimum standards of qualifications; and adding a new chapter to Title
3 18 RCW.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** It is appropriate for individuals who are
6 sign language interpreters for the deaf and hard of hearing within the
7 state of Washington, and who normally charge a fee for their services,
8 to be qualified. Since in the normal interpreting situation, between
9 a deaf and hearing individual, the deaf cannot hear the spoken word and
10 the hearing cannot read the signed word, neither is capable of judging
11 the effectiveness or quality of the interpretation. Therefore, it is
12 appropriate to ensure that interpreters have achieved a minimum level
13 of competency.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A sign language interpreter who has current
15 certification from the national association of the deaf or the registry
16 of interpreters of the deaf is deemed to have demonstrated a minimum
17 level of competency.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A sign language interpreter hired as an
2 educational interpreter within the public school system (K-12)
3 effective July 1, 2000, shall be certified, and within one year from
4 their date of hire shall have completed thirty hours of orientation and
5 training offered through the office of the superintendent of public
6 instruction.

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A sign language interpreter employed as an
8 educational interpreter within the public school system (K-12) prior to
9 July 1, 2000, has until July 2002 to receive certification.

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** The office of the superintendent of public
11 instruction may request from the office of deaf and hard of hearing
12 services, within the department of social and health services, a two-
13 year nonrenewable waiver to a sign language interpreter hired to
14 provide educational interpreting when a school district has
15 demonstrated through reasonable effort that a certified interpreter is
16 unavailable.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** A sign language interpreter employed as an
18 educational interpreter within postsecondary education, community
19 college, or technical training programs shall be certified effective
20 July 1, 2000. Certification may be received from either the national
21 association of the deaf or the registry of interpreters of the deaf.

22 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** Sign language interpreters employed publicly
23 or privately and receiving remuneration for services rendered shall be
24 certified effective July 1, 2000. Certification may be obtained from
25 either the registry of interpreters of the deaf or the national
26 association of the deaf.

27 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** The office of deaf and hard of hearing
28 services, within the department of social and health services, shall
29 develop policies and procedures and an effective grievance procedure to
30 regulate certified sign language interpreters.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 9.** Sections 1 through 8 of this act constitute
2 a new chapter in Title 18 RCW.

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