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ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2518

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State of Washington

61st Legislature

2010 Regular Session

By House Judiciary (originally sponsored by Representatives Goodman, Rodne, and Kelley; by request of Board For Judicial Administration)

READ FIRST TIME 01/25/10.

1 AN ACT Relating to oath requirements for interpreters; and amending  
2 RCW 2.43.050 and 2.43.020.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 2.43.050 and 1989 c 358 s 5 are each amended to read  
5 as follows:

6 (1) Upon certification or registration and every two years  
7 thereafter, certified or registered interpreters shall take an oath,  
8 affirming that the interpreter will make a true interpretation to the  
9 person being examined of all the proceedings in a language which the  
10 person understands, and that the interpreter will repeat the statements  
11 of the person being examined to the court or agency conducting the  
12 proceedings, in the English language, to the best of the interpreter's  
13 skill and judgment. The administrative office of the courts shall  
14 maintain a record of the oath in the same manner that the list of  
15 certified and registered interpreters is maintained.

16 (2) Before any person serving as an interpreter for the court or  
17 agency begins to interpret, the appointing authority shall require the  
18 interpreter to state the person's name on the record and whether the

1 person is a certified or registered interpreter. If the interpreter is  
2 not a certified or registered interpreter, the interpreter must submit  
3 the interpreter's qualifications on the record.

4 (3) Before beginning to interpret, every interpreter appointed  
5 under this chapter shall take an oath ((affirming)) unless the  
6 interpreter is a certified or registered interpreter who has taken the  
7 oath within the last two years as required in subsection (1) of this  
8 section. The oath must affirm that the interpreter will make a true  
9 interpretation to the person being examined of all the proceedings in  
10 a language which the person understands, and that the interpreter will  
11 repeat the statements of the person being examined to the court or  
12 agency conducting the proceedings, in the English language, to the best  
13 of the interpreter's skill and judgment.

14 **Sec. 2.** RCW 2.43.020 and 2005 c 282 s 2 are each amended to read  
15 as follows:

16 As used in this chapter:

17 (1) "Non-English-speaking person" means any person involved in a  
18 legal proceeding who cannot readily speak or understand the English  
19 language, but does not include hearing-impaired persons who are covered  
20 under chapter 2.42 RCW.

21 (2) "Qualified interpreter" means a person who is able readily to  
22 interpret or translate spoken and written English for non-English-  
23 speaking persons and to interpret or translate oral or written  
24 statements of non-English-speaking persons into spoken English.

25 (3) "Legal proceeding" means a proceeding in any court in this  
26 state, grand jury hearing, or hearing before an inquiry judge, or  
27 before an administrative board, commission, agency, or licensing body  
28 of the state or any political subdivision thereof.

29 (4) "Certified interpreter" means an interpreter who is certified  
30 by the administrative office of the courts.

31 (5) "Appointing authority" means the presiding officer or similar  
32 official of any court, department, board, commission, agency, licensing  
33 authority, or legislative body of the state or of any political  
34 subdivision thereof.

35 (6) "Registered interpreter" means an interpreter who is registered

1 by the administrative office of the courts.

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