
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2518

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.

14 (2) Before any person serving as an interpreter for the court or
15 agency begins to interpret, the appointing authority shall require the
16 interpreter to state the person's name on the record and whether the
17 person is a certified or registered interpreter. If the interpreter is
18 not a certified or registered interpreter, the interpreter must submit
19 the interpreter's qualifications on the record.

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

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

13 As used in this chapter:

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

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

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

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

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

32 (6) "Registered interpreter" means an interpreter who is registered
33 by the administrative office of the courts.

--- END ---