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HOUSE BILL 1285

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State of Washington

65th Legislature

2017 Regular Session

By Representatives Graves, Jinkins, Goodman, Rodne, Shea, Muri, Haler, Kilduff, Klippert, Orwall, and Kirby; by request of Board For Judicial Administration

Read first time 01/16/17. Referred to Committee on Judiciary.

1 AN ACT Relating to oath requirements for interpreters in legal  
2 proceedings; and amending RCW 2.42.050 and 2.43.050.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 2.42.050 and 1989 c 358 s 14 are each amended to  
5 read as follows:

6 Every qualified interpreter appointed under this chapter in a  
7 judicial or administrative proceeding shall, (~~before beginning to~~  
8 ~~interpret~~) upon receiving the interpreter's initial qualification  
9 from the office of the deaf and hard of hearing, take an oath that a  
10 true interpretation will be made to the person being examined of all  
11 the proceedings in a manner which the person understands, and that  
12 the interpreter will repeat the statements of the person being  
13 examined to the court or other agency conducting the proceedings, to  
14 the best of the interpreter's skill and judgment.

15 **Sec. 2.** RCW 2.43.050 and 2010 c 190 s 1 are each amended to read  
16 as follows:

17 (1) Upon certification or registration (~~and every two years~~  
18 ~~thereafter~~) with the administrative office of the courts, certified  
19 or registered interpreters shall take an oath, affirming that the  
20 interpreter will make a true interpretation to the person being

1 examined of all the proceedings in a language which the person  
2 understands, and that the interpreter will repeat the statements of  
3 the person being examined to the court or agency conducting the  
4 proceedings, in the English language, to the best of the  
5 interpreter's skill and judgment. The administrative office of the  
6 courts shall maintain a record of the oath in the same manner that  
7 the list of certified and registered interpreters is maintained.

8 (2) Before any person serving as an interpreter for the court or  
9 agency begins to interpret, the appointing authority shall require  
10 the interpreter to state the ((person)) interpreter's name on the  
11 record and whether the ((person)) interpreter is a certified or  
12 registered interpreter. If the interpreter is not a certified or  
13 registered interpreter, the interpreter must submit the interpreter's  
14 qualifications on the record.

15 (3) Before beginning to interpret, every interpreter appointed  
16 under this chapter shall take an oath unless the interpreter is a  
17 certified or registered interpreter who has taken the oath ((within  
18 the last two years)) as required in subsection (1) of this section.  
19 The oath must affirm that the interpreter will make a true  
20 interpretation to the person being examined of all the proceedings in  
21 a language which the person understands, and that the interpreter  
22 will repeat the statements of the person being examined to the court  
23 or agency conducting the proceedings, in the English language, to the  
24 best of the interpreter's skill and judgment.

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