

FINAL BILL REPORT

SB 5558

C 152 L 19

Synopsis as Enacted

Brief Description: Reinstating the authority of the department of social and health services and the health care authority to purchase interpreter services for applicants and recipients of public assistance who are sensory-impaired.

Sponsors: Senators Saldaña, Darneille, Keiser and Nguyen.

Senate Committee on Human Services, Reentry & Rehabilitation
House Committee on Human Services & Early Learning
House Committee on Appropriations

Background: Since 2012, the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) and the Health Care Authority (HCA) have had the statutory authority to purchase interpreter services on behalf of applicants and recipients of public assistance who are sensory-impaired.

In 2018, legislation was enacted that, in part, altered the procurement of spoken language services and allows spoken language interpreters to elect collective bargaining representation. This same legislation removed DSHS and HCA authority to purchase interpreter services on behalf of applicants and recipients of public assistance who are sensory-impaired.

Summary: The authority to purchase interpreter services on behalf of applicants and recipients of public assistance who are sensory-impaired rests with DSHS and HCA.

Votes on Final Passage:

Senate	49	0
House	95	1

Effective: April 26, 2019

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