
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1174

State of Washington

69th Legislature

2025 Regular Session

By House Civil Rights & Judiciary (originally sponsored by Representatives Peterson, Thai, Ryu, Taylor, Ortiz-Self, Simmons, Goodman, Davis, Ormsby, Lekanoff, Salahuddin, and Hill; by request of Administrative Office of the Courts)

READ FIRST TIME 02/18/25.

1 AN ACT Relating to court interpreters; amending RCW 2.43.010,
2 2.43.030, 2.43.050, 2.43.060, 2.43.080, 2.43.070, 2.43.040, 2.43.090,
3 2.56.030, 7.105.245, 13.04.043, and 2.42.120; reenacting and amending
4 RCW 2.43.020; adding new sections to chapter 2.43 RCW; and
5 recodifying RCW 2.43.040 and 2.43.080.

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

7 **Sec. 1.** RCW 2.43.010 and 1989 c 358 s 1 are each amended to read
8 as follows:

9 It is hereby declared to be the policy of this state to secure
10 the rights, constitutional or otherwise, of persons who, because of a
11 non-English-speaking cultural background, are unable to readily
12 understand or communicate in the English language, and who
13 consequently cannot be fully protected in legal proceedings unless
14 ((qualified)) interpreters are available to assist them.

15 It is the intent of the legislature in the passage of this
16 chapter to provide for the use and procedure for the appointment of
17 such interpreters. ((Nothing in chapter 358, Laws of 1989 abridges
18 the parties' rights or obligations under other statutes or court
19 rules or other law.))

1 **Sec. 2.** RCW 2.43.020 and 2010 c 190 s 2 are each reenacted and
2 amended to read as follows:

3 As used in this chapter:

4 (1) (~~"Appointing authority" means the presiding officer or~~
5 ~~similar official of any court, department, board, commission, agency,~~
6 ~~licensing authority, or legislative body of the state or of any~~
7 ~~political subdivision thereof.~~

8 ~~(2) "Certified interpreter" means an interpreter who is certified~~
9 ~~by the administrative office of the courts.~~

10 ~~(3))~~ "Credentialed interpreter" means an interpreter who is
11 credentialed by the administrative office of the courts in a spoken
12 language.

13 (2) "Judicial officer" means a judge, commissioner, or magistrate
14 of any court.

15 (3) "Language access plan" means a plan that is publicly
16 available which contains the elements required by RCW 2.43.090.

17 (4) "Legal proceeding" means ((a)) any proceeding in any court
18 ((in this state, grand jury hearing, or hearing)), and in any type of
19 hearing before ((an inquiry judge,)) a judicial officer, an
20 administrative law judge, or before an administrative board,
21 commission, agency, or licensing body of the state or any political
22 subdivision ((thereof)).

23 ~~((4) "Non-English-speaking person"))~~ (5) "Person with limited
24 English proficiency" means ((any)) a person involved in a legal
25 proceeding who cannot readily speak or understand the English
26 language, but does not include ((hearing-impaired persons)) deaf,
27 deaf-blind, and hard of hearing individuals who are covered under
28 chapter 2.42 RCW.

29 ~~((5) "Qualified interpreter" means a person who is able readily~~
30 ~~to interpret or translate spoken and written English for non-English-~~
31 ~~speaking persons and to interpret or translate oral or written~~
32 ~~statements of non-English-speaking persons into spoken English.))~~

33 ~~(6) ("Registered interpreter" means an interpreter who is~~
34 ~~registered by the administrative office of the courts.))~~ "Presiding
35 officer" means the judicial officer or similar official of any court,
36 department, board, commission, agency, or licensing authority of the
37 state or of any political subdivision thereof.

38 **Sec. 3.** RCW 2.43.030 and 2005 c 282 s 3 are each amended to read
39 as follows:

1 (1) (~~Whenever an interpreter is appointed to assist a non-~~
2 ~~English-speaking person in a legal proceeding, the appointing~~
3 ~~authority shall, in the absence of a written waiver by the person,~~
4 ~~appoint a certified or a qualified interpreter to assist the person~~
5 ~~throughout the proceedings.~~

6 ~~(a) Except as otherwise provided for in (b) of this subsection,~~
7 ~~the interpreter appointed shall be a qualified interpreter.~~

8 ~~(b) Beginning on July 1, 1990, when a non-English-speaking person~~
9 ~~is a party to a legal proceeding, or is subpoenaed or summoned by an~~
10 ~~appointing authority or is otherwise compelled by an appointing~~
11 ~~authority to appear at a legal proceeding, the appointing authority~~
12 ~~shall use the services of only those language interpreters who have~~
13 ~~been certified by the administrative office of the courts, unless~~
14 ~~good cause is found and noted on the record by the appointing~~
15 ~~authority. For purposes of chapter 358, Laws of 1989, "good cause"~~
16 ~~includes but is not limited to a determination that:~~

17 ~~(i) Given the totality of the circumstances, including the nature~~
18 ~~of the proceeding and the potential penalty or consequences involved,~~
19 ~~the services of a certified interpreter are not reasonably available~~
20 ~~to the appointing authority; or~~

21 ~~(ii) The current list of certified interpreters maintained by the~~
22 ~~administrative office of the courts does not include an interpreter~~
23 ~~certified in the language spoken by the non-English-speaking person.~~

24 ~~(c) Except as otherwise provided in this section, when a non-~~
25 ~~English-speaking person is involved in a legal proceeding, the~~
26 ~~appointing authority shall appoint a qualified interpreter.)~~ (a)
27 Credentialed interpreters shall be appointed in legal proceedings
28 involving participation of persons with limited English proficiency,
29 unless good cause is found on the record for appointing a
30 noncredentialed interpreter.

31 (b) For purposes of this chapter, "good cause" includes, but is
32 not limited to, a determination that:

33 (i) Given the totality of the circumstances, including the nature
34 of the proceeding and the potential penalty or consequences involved,
35 the services of a credentialed interpreter are not reasonably
36 available; or

37 (ii) The current list of interpreters maintained by the
38 administrative office of the courts does not include an interpreter
39 credentialed in the language spoken by the person with limited
40 English proficiency.

1 (2) If good cause is found for using an interpreter who is not
2 (~~certified or if a qualified interpreter is appointed, the~~
3 ~~appointing authority shall make a preliminary determination, on the~~
4 ~~basis of testimony or stated needs of the non-English-speaking~~
5 ~~person, that the proposed interpreter is able to interpret accurately~~
6 ~~all communications to and from such person in that particular~~
7 ~~proceeding. The appointing authority shall satisfy itself on the~~
8 ~~record that the proposed interpreter:~~

9 (a) ~~Is capable of communicating effectively with the court or~~
10 ~~agency and the person for whom the interpreter would interpret; and~~

11 (b) ~~Has read, understands, and will abide by the code of ethics~~
12 ~~for language interpreters established by court rules)) credentialed,~~
13 ~~the judicial or presiding officer shall make a preliminary~~
14 ~~determination that the proposed interpreter is able to interpret~~
15 ~~accurately all communications to and from the person with limited~~
16 ~~English proficiency in that particular proceeding. The determination~~
17 ~~shall be made on the basis of testimony or stated needs of the person~~
18 ~~with limited English proficiency.~~

19 (3) The judicial or presiding officer shall satisfy itself and
20 state on the record that:

21 (a) The proposed interpreter is capable of communicating
22 effectively in English and in the non-English language. If the
23 interpreter is assigned to interpret between two non-English
24 languages (relay interpreter), the interpreter shall not be required
25 to communicate in English;

26 (b) The proposed interpreter has read, understands, and will
27 abide by the code of professional responsibility for judiciary
28 interpreters established by court rule. If the interpreter does not
29 meet this requirement, the interpreter may be given time to review
30 the code of professional responsibility for judiciary interpreters;
31 and

32 (c) The person with limited English proficiency can understand
33 the interpreter.

34 (4) The court shall inquire whether the interpreter can
35 accurately interpret in the consecutive mode and whether the
36 interpreter can accurately interpret in the simultaneous mode.

37 (5) If the proposed interpreter does not meet the criteria in
38 subsection (3) of this section, another interpreter must be used.

1 **Sec. 4.** RCW 2.43.050 and 2017 c 83 s 2 are each amended to read
2 as follows:

3 (1) (a) Upon ~~((certification or registration with the~~
4 ~~administrative office of the courts, certified or registered))~~
5 obtaining an interpreter credential with the administrative office of
6 the courts, credentialed interpreters shall take ~~((an))~~ a permanent
7 oath, affirming that the interpreter will make a true interpretation
8 ~~((to the person being examined))~~ of all the proceedings ~~((in a~~
9 ~~language which the person understands,))~~ and that the interpreter
10 will repeat the statements of the person ~~((being examined))~~ with
11 limited English proficiency to the court or agency conducting the
12 proceedings, in the English language, to the best of the
13 interpreter's skill and judgment.

14 (b) The administrative office of the courts shall maintain the
15 list of credentialed interpreters and a record of the oath in the
16 same manner ~~((that the list of certified and registered interpreters~~
17 ~~is maintained))~~.

18 (2) Before any person serving as an interpreter for the court or
19 agency begins to interpret, the ~~((appointing authority))~~ judicial or
20 presiding officer shall require the interpreter to state the
21 interpreter's name on the record and whether the interpreter is a
22 ~~((certified or registered))~~ credentialed interpreter. If the
23 interpreter is not a ~~((certified or registered))~~ credentialed
24 interpreter, the interpreter must ~~((submit the interpreter's~~
25 ~~qualifications))~~ be qualified on the record.

26 (3) Before beginning to interpret, every interpreter appointed
27 under this chapter shall take an oath unless the interpreter is a
28 ~~((certified or registered))~~ credentialed interpreter who has taken
29 the oath as required in subsection (1) of this section. The oath must
30 affirm that the interpreter will make a true interpretation to the
31 person being examined of all the proceedings in a language which the
32 person understands, and that the interpreter will repeat the
33 statements of the person being examined to the court or agency
34 conducting the proceedings, in the English language, to the best of
35 the interpreter's skill and judgment.

36 **Sec. 5.** RCW 2.43.060 and 1989 c 358 s 6 are each amended to read
37 as follows:

38 (1) The right to ~~((a qualified))~~ an interpreter may not be waived
39 except when:

1 (a) A ~~((non-English-speaking))~~ person with limited English
2 proficiency requests a waiver on the record; and

3 (b) The ~~((appointing authority))~~ judicial or presiding officer
4 determines on the record that the waiver has been made knowingly,
5 voluntarily, and intelligently.

6 (2) ~~((Waiver of a qualified interpreter))~~ The waiver of the right
7 to an interpreter may be set aside and an interpreter appointed~~((7~~
8 ~~in))~~ at the discretion of the ~~((appointing authority,))~~ judicial or
9 presiding officer at any time during the proceedings.

10 (3) The waiver of the right to an interpreter does not preclude a
11 person with limited English proficiency from exercising the right to
12 an interpreter at a later time.

13 **Sec. 6.** RCW 2.43.080 and 1989 c 358 s 8 are each amended to read
14 as follows:

15 All language interpreters serving in a legal proceeding, whether
16 or not ~~((certified or qualified))~~ credentialed, shall abide by a code
17 of ~~((ethics))~~ professional responsibility for judiciary interpreters
18 established by supreme court rule.

19 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** A new section is added to chapter 2.43 RCW
20 to read as follows:

21 The court shall appoint a team of interpreters as required by
22 supreme court rule.

23 **Sec. 8.** RCW 2.43.070 and 2005 c 282 s 4 are each amended to read
24 as follows:

25 (1) Subject to the availability of funds, the administrative
26 office of the courts shall establish and maintain a credentialing
27 program for spoken language interpreters and administer ~~((a))~~
28 comprehensive testing ~~((and certification program for language~~
29 ~~interpreters))~~.

30 (2) The administrative office of the courts shall work
31 cooperatively with ~~((community colleges and other))~~ public or private
32 ~~((or public))~~ educational institutions, and with other public or
33 private organizations to establish ~~((a certification preparation~~
34 ~~curriculum and))~~ suitable training programs and engage in recruitment
35 efforts to ensure the availability of ~~((certified))~~ credentialed
36 interpreters. Training programs shall be made readily available in
37 both eastern and western Washington locations.

1 (3) The administrative office of the courts shall establish and
2 adopt standards of proficiency, written and oral, in English and the
3 language to be interpreted.

4 (4) The administrative office of the courts shall conduct
5 periodic examinations to ensure the availability of ((certified))
6 credentialed interpreters. Periodic examinations shall be made
7 readily available in both eastern and western Washington locations.

8 (5) The administrative office of the courts shall compile,
9 maintain, and disseminate a current list of interpreters
10 ((certified)) credentialed by the office.

11 (6) The administrative office of the courts may charge reasonable
12 fees for testing, training, and ((certification)) credentialing.

13 (7) The administrative office of the courts may create different
14 credentials and provide guidance for the selection and use of
15 credentialed and noncredentialed interpreters to ensure the highest
16 standards of accuracy are maintained in all judicial proceedings.

17 **Sec. 9.** RCW 2.43.040 and 2023 c 102 s 1 are each amended to read
18 as follows:

19 (1) Interpreters appointed according to this chapter are entitled
20 to a reasonable fee for their services and shall be reimbursed for
21 actual expenses which are reasonable as provided in this section.

22 (2) (a) ~~In all legal proceedings ((in which the non-English-~~
23 ~~speaking person is a party, or is subpoenaed or summoned by the~~
24 ~~appointing authority or is otherwise compelled by the appointing~~
25 ~~authority to appear, including criminal proceedings, grand jury~~
26 ~~proceedings, coroner's inquests, mental health commitment~~
27 ~~proceedings, and other legal proceedings initiated by agencies of~~
28 ~~government, the cost of providing the interpreter shall be borne by~~
29 ~~the governmental body initiating the legal proceedings.~~

30 ~~(3) In other legal proceedings, the cost of providing the~~
31 ~~interpreter shall be borne by the non-English-speaking person unless~~
32 ~~such person is indigent according to adopted standards of the body.~~
33 ~~In such a case the cost shall be an administrative cost of the~~
34 ~~governmental body under the authority of which the legal proceeding~~
35 ~~is conducted.~~

36 (4)), a person with limited English proficiency is not
37 responsible for the cost of the interpreter if that person is:

38 (i) A party;

39 (ii) Subpoenaed or summoned;

1 (iii) A parent, guardian, or custodian of a juvenile; or

2 (iv) Compelled to appear.

3 (b) (i) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for
4 this specific purpose, in all court-mandated classes, a person with
5 limited English proficiency is not responsible for the cost of the
6 interpreter if that person is:

7 (A) A party;

8 (B) Subpoenaed or summoned;

9 (C) A parent, guardian, or custodian of a juvenile; or

10 (D) Compelled to appear.

11 (ii) Court-mandated classes do not require the use of court-
12 credentialed interpreters. Where court-mandated classes are provided
13 through a court-contracted outside provider, the contract may require
14 the provider to bear the cost of interpreter services.

15 (c) In legal proceedings initiated by agencies of government, the
16 cost of providing the interpreter shall be borne by the governmental
17 body initiating the legal proceedings.

18 (3) Subject to the availability of funds specifically
19 appropriated ((therefor)) for this purpose, the administrative office
20 of the courts shall reimburse the ((appointing authority for up to
21 one-half of the payment to the interpreter where an interpreter is
22 appointed by a judicial officer in a proceeding before a court at
23 public expense and:

24 ~~-(a) The interpreter appointed is an interpreter certified by the~~
25 ~~administrative office of the courts or is a qualified interpreter~~
26 ~~registered by the administrative office of the courts in a~~
27 ~~noncertified language, or where the necessary language is not~~
28 ~~certified or registered, the interpreter has been qualified by the~~
29 ~~judicial officer pursuant to this chapter;~~

30 ~~-(b) The court conducting the legal proceeding has an approved~~
31 ~~language assistance plan that complies with RCW 2.43.090; and~~

32 ~~-(c) The fee paid to the interpreter for services is in accordance~~
33 ~~with standards established by the administrative office of the~~
34 ~~courts)) participating state court for language access services costs~~
35 ~~and one-half of the payment of interpreter costs unless a higher~~
36 ~~reimbursement rate is established in the omnibus budget.~~

37 **Sec. 10.** RCW 2.43.090 and 2008 c 291 s 1 are each amended to
38 read as follows:

1 (1) (~~Each trial court~~) Trial courts organized under this title
2 and Titles 3 and 35 RCW must develop and maintain a written language
3 (~~assistance~~) access plan to provide a framework for the provision
4 of (~~interpreter~~) language access services for (~~non-English-~~
5 ~~speaking~~) persons with limited English proficiency accessing the
6 court system and its programs in both civil and criminal legal
7 matters. Courts may use a template developed by the administrative
8 office of the courts in developing their language access plan.

9 (2) The language (~~assistance~~) access plan must at a minimum
10 include(~~, at a minimum, provisions addressing~~) provisions designed
11 to provide procedures for court staff and the public, as may be
12 necessary, that address the following:

13 (a) Procedures to identify and (~~assess~~) provide the language
14 needs of (~~non-English-speaking~~) persons with limited English
15 proficiency using the court system;

16 (b) Procedures for (~~the appointment of~~) requesting and
17 appointing interpreters as required under RCW 2.43.030(~~. Such~~
18 ~~procedures shall not require the non-English-speaking person to make~~
19 ~~the arrangements for the interpreter to appear in court~~);

20 (c) Procedures for notifying court users of the right to an
21 interpreter and the availability of interpreter services. Such
22 information shall be prominently displayed in the courthouse in the
23 five (~~foreign~~) or more languages other than English that (~~eensus~~)
24 reputable data indicates are predominate in the jurisdiction;

25 (d) A process for providing timely communication (~~with non-~~
26 ~~English speakers by~~) between individuals with limited English
27 proficiency and all court employees who have regular contact with the
28 public and (~~meaningful~~) effective access to court (~~services,~~
29 ~~including access to~~) services provided by the clerk's office and
30 other court-managed programs;

31 (e) Procedures for evaluating the need for translation of written
32 materials, and prioritizing and providing those (~~translation needs,~~
33 ~~and translating the highest priority materials. These procedures~~)
34 translated materials. Courts should take into account the frequency
35 of use of forms by the language group, and the cost of (~~orally~~
36 ~~interpreting~~) providing the forms by other means;

37 (f) A process for (~~requiring and providing~~) training (~~to~~)
38 judges, court clerks, and (~~other~~) court staff on (~~the requirements~~
39 ~~of the language assistance plan~~) best practices in serving
40 individuals with limited English proficiency in legal proceedings and

1 how to effectively ~~((access))~~ assign and work with interpreters and
2 provide interpretation; and

3 (g) A process for an ongoing evaluation of the language
4 ~~((assistance))~~ access plan and a process for monitoring ~~((of))~~ the
5 implementation of the language ~~((assistance))~~ access plan.

6 ~~((2))~~ (3) Each court, when developing its language
7 ~~((assistance))~~ access plan, must consult with judges, court
8 administrators ~~((and))~~, court staff, court clerks, interpreters, and
9 members of the community, such as domestic violence organizations,
10 pro bono programs, courthouse facilitators, legal services programs,
11 and/or other community groups whose members speak a language other
12 than English.

13 ~~((3) Each court must provide a copy of its language assistance~~
14 ~~plan to the interpreter commission established by supreme court rule~~
15 ~~for approval prior to receiving state reimbursement for interpreter~~
16 ~~costs under this chapter.~~

17 ~~(4) Each court receiving reimbursement for interpreter costs~~
18 ~~under RCW 2.42.120 or 2.43.040 must provide to the administrative~~
19 ~~office of the courts by November 15, 2009, a report detailing an~~
20 ~~assessment of the need for interpreter services for non-English~~
21 ~~speakers in court-mandated classes or programs, the extent to which~~
22 ~~interpreter services are currently available for court-mandated~~
23 ~~classes or programs, and the resources that would be required to~~
24 ~~ensure that interpreters are provided to non-English speakers in~~
25 ~~court-mandated classes or programs. The report shall also include the~~
26 ~~amounts spent annually on interpreter services for fiscal years 2005,~~
27 ~~2006, 2007, 2008, and 2009. The administrative office of the courts~~
28 ~~shall compile these reports and provide them along with the specific~~
29 ~~reimbursements provided, by court and fiscal year, to the appropriate~~
30 ~~committees of the legislature by December 15, 2009.))~~

31 (4) Beginning January 1, 2026, and every two years thereafter,
32 all courts must submit their most recent language access plan to the
33 administrative office of the courts.

34 (5) The administrative office of the courts shall provide
35 technical assistance to trial courts in developing their language
36 access plans.

37 (6) Each court must provide a copy of its language access plan to
38 the administrative office of the courts in accordance with criteria
39 for approval recommended by the interpreter and language access

1 commission for approval prior to receiving state reimbursement for
2 interpreter costs under this chapter.

3 (7) Each court shall make available on its website translated
4 information that informs the public of procedures necessary to access
5 a court's language access services and programs. The information
6 shall be provided in five or more languages other than English that
7 reputable data indicates are predominant in the jurisdiction.

8 **Sec. 11.** RCW 2.56.030 and 2019 c 271 s 5 are each amended to
9 read as follows:

10 The administrator for the courts shall, under the supervision and
11 direction of the chief justice:

12 (1) Examine the administrative methods and systems employed in
13 the offices of the judges, clerks, stenographers, and employees of
14 the courts and make recommendations, through the chief justice, for
15 the improvement of the same;

16 (2) Examine the state of the dockets of the courts and determine
17 the need for assistance by any court;

18 (3) Make recommendations to the chief justice relating to the
19 assignment of judges where courts are in need of assistance and carry
20 out the direction of the chief justice as to the assignments of
21 judges to counties and districts where the courts are in need of
22 assistance;

23 (4) Collect and compile statistical and other data and make
24 reports of the business transacted by the courts and transmit the
25 same to the chief justice to the end that proper action may be taken
26 in respect thereto;

27 (5) Prepare and submit budget estimates of state appropriations
28 necessary for the maintenance and operation of the judicial system
29 and make recommendations in respect thereto;

30 (6) Collect statistical and other data and make reports relating
31 to the expenditure of public moneys, state and local, for the
32 maintenance and operation of the judicial system and the offices
33 connected therewith;

34 (7) Obtain reports from clerks of courts in accordance with law
35 or rules adopted by the supreme court of this state on cases and
36 other judicial business in which action has been delayed beyond
37 periods of time specified by law or rules of court and make report
38 thereof to supreme court of this state;

1 (8) Act as secretary of the judicial conference referred to in
2 RCW 2.56.060;

3 (9) Submit annually, as of February 1st, to the chief justice, a
4 report of the activities of the administrator's office for the
5 preceding calendar year including activities related to courthouse
6 security;

7 (10) Administer programs and standards for the training and
8 education of judicial personnel;

9 (11) Examine the need for new superior court and district court
10 judge positions under an objective workload analysis. The results of
11 the objective workload analysis shall be reviewed by the board for
12 judicial administration which shall make recommendations to the
13 legislature. It is the intent of the legislature that an objective
14 workload analysis become the basis for creating additional district
15 and superior court positions, and recommendations should address that
16 objective;

17 (12) Provide staff to the judicial retirement account plan under
18 chapter 2.14 RCW;

19 (13) Attend to such other matters as may be assigned by the
20 supreme court of this state;

21 (14) Within available funds, develop a curriculum for a general
22 understanding of child development, placement, and treatment
23 resources, as well as specific legal skills and knowledge of relevant
24 statutes including chapters 13.32A, 13.34, and 13.40 RCW, cases,
25 court rules, interviewing skills, and special needs of the abused or
26 neglected child. This curriculum shall be completed and made
27 available to all juvenile court judges, court personnel, and service
28 providers and be updated yearly to reflect changes in statutes, court
29 rules, or case law;

30 (15) Develop, in consultation with the entities set forth in RCW
31 2.56.150(3), a comprehensive statewide curriculum for persons who act
32 as guardians ad litem under Title 13 or 26 RCW. The curriculum shall
33 be made available July 1, 2008, and include specialty sections on
34 child development, child sexual abuse, child physical abuse, child
35 neglect, domestic violence, clinical and forensic investigative and
36 interviewing techniques, family reconciliation and mediation
37 services, and relevant statutory and legal requirements. The
38 curriculum shall be made available to all superior court judges,
39 court personnel, and all persons who act as guardians ad litem;

1 (16) Develop a curriculum for a general understanding of hate
2 crime offenses, as well as specific legal skills and knowledge of RCW
3 9A.36.080, relevant cases, court rules, and the special needs of hate
4 crime offense victims. This curriculum shall be made available to all
5 superior court and court of appeals judges and to all justices of the
6 supreme court;

7 (17) Develop, in consultation with the criminal justice training
8 commission and the commissions established under chapters 43.113,
9 43.115, and 43.117 RCW, a curriculum for a general understanding of
10 ethnic and cultural diversity and its implications for working with
11 youth of color and their families. The curriculum shall be available
12 to all superior court judges and court commissioners assigned to
13 juvenile court, and other court personnel. Ethnic and cultural
14 diversity training shall be provided annually so as to incorporate
15 cultural sensitivity and awareness into the daily operation of
16 juvenile courts statewide;

17 (18) Authorize the use of closed circuit television and other
18 electronic equipment in judicial proceedings. The administrator shall
19 promulgate necessary standards and procedures and shall provide
20 technical assistance to courts as required;

21 (19) Develop a Washington family law handbook in accordance with
22 RCW 2.56.180;

23 (20) Administer state funds for improving the operation of the
24 courts and provide support for court coordinating councils, under the
25 direction of the board for judicial administration;

26 (21) Administer the family and juvenile court improvement grant
27 program;

28 (22)(a) Administer and distribute amounts appropriated under RCW
29 43.08.250(2) for district court judges' and qualifying elected
30 municipal court judges' salary contributions. The administrator for
31 the courts shall develop a distribution formula for these amounts
32 that does not differentiate between district and elected municipal
33 court judges.

34 (b) A city qualifies for state contribution of elected municipal
35 court judges' salaries under (a) of this subsection if:

36 (i) The judge is serving in an elected position;

37 (ii) The city has established by ordinance that a full-time judge
38 is compensated at a rate equivalent to at least ninety-five percent,
39 but not more than one hundred percent, of a district court judge

1 salary or for a part-time judge on a pro rata basis the same
2 equivalent; and

3 (iii) The city has certified to the office of the administrator
4 for the courts that the conditions in (b)(i) and (ii) of this
5 subsection have been met;

6 (23) Subject to the availability of funds specifically
7 appropriated therefor, assist courts in the development and
8 implementation of language ((assistance)) access plans required under
9 RCW 2.43.090.

10 **Sec. 12.** RCW 7.105.245 and 2021 c 215 s 33 are each amended to
11 read as follows:

12 (1) Pursuant to chapter 2.42 RCW, in order to ensure that parties
13 have meaningful access to the court, an interpreter shall be
14 appointed for any party who is deaf, hard of hearing, deaf-blind, or
15 has a speech impairment and cannot readily understand or communicate
16 in spoken language. Notwithstanding the provisions of chapter 2.42
17 RCW, the court shall not:

18 (a) Appoint an interpreter who is not credentialed or duly
19 qualified by the court to provide interpretation services; or

20 (b) Appoint a person to provide interpretation services if that
21 person is serving as an advocate for the party.

22 (2) Pursuant to chapter 2.43 RCW, in order to ensure that parties
23 have meaningful access to the court, an interpreter shall be
24 appointed for any party who ~~((cannot readily speak or understand the
25 English language))~~ has limited English proficiency. Notwithstanding
26 the provisions of chapter 2.43 RCW, the court shall not:

27 (a) Appoint an interpreter who is not credentialed or duly
28 qualified by the court to provide interpretation services; or

29 (b) Appoint a person to provide interpretation services if that
30 person is serving as an advocate for the party.

31 (3) Once an interpreter has been appointed for a party, the party
32 shall no longer be required to make further requests for the
33 appointment of an interpreter for subsequent hearings or proceedings.
34 The clerk shall identify the party as a person who needs interpreter
35 services and the clerk or the court administrator shall be
36 responsible for ensuring that an interpreter is available for every
37 subsequent hearing.

38 (4) The interpreter shall interpret for the party meeting with
39 either counsel or court staff, or both, for the purpose of preparing

1 forms and participating in the hearing and court-ordered assessments,
2 and the interpreter shall sight translate any orders.

3 (5) The same interpreter shall not serve parties on both sides of
4 the proceeding when not on the record, nor shall the interpreter
5 appointed by the court for the proceeding be the same interpreter
6 appointed for any court-ordered assessments, unless the court finds
7 good cause on the record to do so because it is not possible to
8 obtain more than one interpreter for the proceeding, or the safety of
9 the litigants is not compromised, or any other reasons identified by
10 the court.

11 (6) Courts shall make a private space available for parties,
12 counsel, and/or court staff and interpreters to sight translate any
13 written documents or to meet and confer.

14 (7) When a hearing is conducted through telephone, video, or
15 other electronic means, the court must make appropriate arrangements
16 to permit interpreters to serve the parties and the court as needed.

17 **Sec. 13.** RCW 13.04.043 and 1993 c 415 s 6 are each amended to
18 read as follows:

19 The administrator of juvenile court shall obtain interpreters as
20 needed consistent with the intent and practice of chapter 2.43 RCW,
21 to enable ((non-English-speaking)) youth with limited English
22 proficiency and their families to participate in detention,
23 probation, or court proceedings and programs.

24 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 14.** RCW 2.43.040 and 2.43.080 are each
25 recodified as sections in chapter 2.43 RCW.

26 **Sec. 15.** RCW 2.42.120 and 2008 c 291 s 2 are each amended to
27 read as follows:

28 (1) If a hearing impaired person is a party or witness at any
29 stage of a judicial or quasi-judicial proceeding in the state or in a
30 political subdivision, including but not limited to civil and
31 criminal court proceedings, grand jury proceedings, proceedings
32 before a magistrate, juvenile proceedings, adoption proceedings,
33 mental health commitment proceedings, and any proceeding in which a
34 hearing impaired person may be subject to confinement or criminal
35 sanction, the appointing authority shall appoint and pay for a
36 qualified interpreter to interpret the proceedings.

1 (2) If the parent, guardian, or custodian of a juvenile brought
2 before a court is hearing impaired, the appointing authority shall
3 appoint and pay for a qualified interpreter to interpret the
4 proceedings.

5 ~~(3) ((If a hearing impaired person participates in a program or
6 activity ordered by a court as part of the sentence or order of
7 disposition, required as part of a diversion agreement or deferred
8 prosecution program, or required as a condition of probation or
9 parole, the appointing authority shall appoint and pay for a
10 qualified interpreter to interpret exchange of information during the
11 program or activity.~~

12 ~~(4) If a law enforcement agency conducts a criminal investigation
13 involving the interviewing of a hearing impaired person, whether as a
14 victim, witness, or suspect, the appointing authority shall appoint
15 and pay for a qualified interpreter throughout the investigation.
16 Whenever a law enforcement agency conducts a criminal investigation
17 involving the interviewing of a minor child whose parent, guardian,
18 or custodian is hearing impaired, whether as a victim, witness, or
19 suspect, the appointing authority shall appoint and pay for a
20 qualified interpreter throughout the investigation. No employee of
21 the law enforcement agency who has responsibilities other than
22 interpreting may be appointed as the qualified interpreter.~~

23 ~~(5) If a hearing impaired person is arrested for an alleged
24 violation of a criminal law the arresting officer or the officer's
25 supervisor shall, at the earliest possible time, procure and arrange
26 payment for a qualified interpreter for any notification of rights,
27 warning, interrogation, or taking of a statement. No employee of the
28 law enforcement agency who has responsibilities other than
29 interpreting may be appointed as the qualified interpreter.~~

30 ~~(6))~~ Where it is the policy and practice of a court of this
31 state or of a political subdivision to appoint and pay counsel for
32 persons who are indigent, the appointing authority shall appoint and
33 pay for a qualified interpreter for hearing impaired persons to
34 facilitate communication with counsel in all phases of the
35 preparation and presentation of the case.

36 ~~((7))~~ (4) Subject to the availability of funds specifically
37 appropriated therefor, the administrative office of the courts shall
38 reimburse the appointing authority for up to one-half of the payment
39 to the interpreter where a qualified interpreter is appointed for a
40 hearing impaired person by a judicial officer in a proceeding before

1 a court under subsection (1) (~~(7)~~) or (2) (~~(7) or (3)~~) of this section
2 in compliance with the provisions of RCW 2.42.130 and 2.42.170.

--- **END** ---