
HOUSE BILL 2032

State of Washington

69th Legislature

2025 Regular Session

By Representative Schmidt

Read first time 03/03/25. Referred to Committee on State Government & Tribal Relations.

1 AN ACT Relating to language access providers; and adding a new
2 section to chapter 39.26 RCW.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 39.26
5 RCW to read as follows:

6 (1) For interpreter services procured under RCW 39.26.300:

7 (a) The contracting department shall, either directly or through
8 contracts with third parties, ensure that language access providers
9 are fully compensated within 30 days of submission of a complete and
10 valid invoice or other appropriate record to the department or
11 contracted third party regarding the provision of spoken language
12 interpreter services;

13 (b) The contracting department may not recoup any funds paid to a
14 language access provider or otherwise bill a language access provider
15 for spoken language interpreter services on the basis of a subsequent
16 determination that a public assistance applicant or recipient,
17 injured worker, or crime victim is ineligible for benefits under
18 Title 51 or 74 RCW;

19 (c) The contracting department may not limit the daily amount of
20 time for which language access providers may be paid for provision of
21 spoken language interpreter services;

1 (d) The contracting department may not require language access
2 providers, as a condition of providing spoken language interpreter
3 services, to register with any database or registry which publishes
4 their personal contact information online; and

5 (e) The contracting department shall adopt rules for:

6 (i) Providing compensation to a language access provider in the
7 event an appointment for which a language access provider has been
8 scheduled to provide services is canceled or the injured worker or
9 crime victim fails to appear; and

10 (ii) Providing a language access provider with a mileage
11 reimbursement for distance traveled for a scheduled appointment to
12 provide services, which must be at least the business standard
13 mileage rate determined by the internal revenue service.

14 (2) If the contracting department pays a language access provider
15 less than the amounts to which such language access provider is
16 entitled under this section, it is liable to the language access
17 provider for the full amount due to such language access provider
18 under this section, less any amount actually paid to such language
19 access provider by the department, plus reasonable attorneys' fees
20 and costs, as may be allowed by the court.

21 (3) For the purposes of this section:

22 (a) "Contracting department" refers to any department authorized
23 to purchase interpreter services or otherwise purchasing such
24 services under RCW 39.26.300 including, but not limited to, the
25 department of labor and industries, the department of social and
26 health services, the department of children, youth, and families, the
27 department of enterprise services, or the health care authority.

28 (b) "Language access provider" has the same meaning as provided
29 in RCW 41.56.030.

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