



General Assembly

January Session, 2007

Raised Bill No. 7301

LCO No. 4822

04822_____HS_

Referred to Committee on Human Services

Introduced by:

(HS)

AN ACT CONCERNING THE AVAILABILITY OF QUALIFIED INTERPRETER SERVICES.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2007*) (a) For purposes of this
2 section, (1) "qualified interpreter" means a person who has been
3 certified by the National Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, the
4 National Association of the Deaf or who has attained National
5 Interpreter Certification and who is currently registered with the
6 commission; (2) "commission" means the Commission on the Deaf and
7 Hearing Impaired; and (3) "human services agency" means any state
8 agency, authority, board, commission, committee, council, department,
9 institution or office providing or having cognizance of any human
10 service.

11 (b) (1) In any criminal or civil action involving a person who is deaf
12 or hearing impaired, whether as a party or as a witness, such person
13 shall be provided the services of a qualified interpreter throughout
14 such proceeding. The court, acting on behalf of such person, may
15 request that the commission assign qualified interpreters to interpret
16 for such person throughout the course of the proceeding.

17 (2) In any criminal investigation conducted by a duly organized law
18 enforcement agency involving a person who is deaf or hearing
19 impaired, whether as a victim, witness or suspect, the law enforcement
20 agency shall provide such person with the services of a qualified
21 interpreter throughout the course of such investigation. The law
22 enforcement agency may request that (A) the commission assign
23 qualified interpreters to interpret for such person, or (B) qualified
24 interpreters, except any employee of the law enforcement agency, be
25 assigned to interpret for such person throughout the course of the
26 investigation.

27 (3) In any criminal investigation conducted by a duly organized law
28 enforcement agency involving a minor child having a parent who is
29 deaf or hearing impaired, whether as a victim, witness or suspect, the
30 law enforcement agency shall provide such parent with the services of
31 qualified interpreters throughout the course of such investigation. The
32 law enforcement agency may request that (A) the commission assign
33 qualified interpreters to interpret for such parent, or (B) qualified
34 interpreters, except any employee of such law enforcement agency be
35 assigned to interpret for such parent throughout the course of the
36 investigation.

37 (c) In any proceeding before an administrative or executive board,
38 commission, agency, bureau, committee or other body of the state or
39 any of its political subdivisions involving a person who is deaf or
40 hearing impaired, such body may request that (1) the commission
41 assign qualified interpreters to interpret for such person, or (2)
42 qualified interpreters, except any employee of such body be assigned
43 to interpret for such person throughout the course of the proceeding.

44 (d) In any proceeding before an administrative or executive board,
45 committee or any similar body provided by an employer or by a union
46 to hear employee grievances involving an employee who is deaf or
47 hearing impaired, such employer or union shall request that (1) the
48 commission assign qualified interpreters to interpret for such

49 employee, or (2) qualified interpreters, except any employee of such
50 body be assigned to interpret for such employee throughout the course
51 of the proceeding. For purposes of this subsection, any initial
52 discussions between an employee, an employer or a union
53 representative, involving a matter that may potentially result in the
54 filing of a grievance shall require the provision of qualified interpreter
55 services.

56 (e) Any school, institution of higher education, other educational
57 facility or human services agency may request that the commission
58 provide qualified interpreter services. Upon receiving such request, the
59 commission shall use its best efforts to arrange for qualified interpreter
60 services to accommodate the request.

61 (f) The commission shall process all requests for qualified
62 interpreter services made to the commission pursuant to subsections
63 (b) to (e), inclusive, of this section. Services provided by a qualified
64 interpreter shall be on a fee-for-service basis and need not be provided
65 by employees of the commission.

66 (g) The commission shall adopt regulations, in accordance with the
67 provisions of chapter 54 of the general statutes, to implement the
68 provisions of this section.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2007</i>	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To clarify the role of the Commission on the Deaf and Hearing Impaired in providing qualified interpreter services to persons who are deaf or hearing impaired in a variety of legal and administrative forums.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]

