



General Assembly

**Substitute Bill No. 7301**

January Session, 2007

\*           HB07301HS\_JUD032207           \*

**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 make reasonable efforts to provide such person with the  
21 services of a qualified interpreter throughout the course of such  
22 investigation. No custodial interrogation of any deaf or hearing  
23 impaired suspect shall be conducted without a qualified interpreter.  
24 The law enforcement agency may request that (A) the commission  
25 assign qualified interpreters to interpret for such person, or (B)  
26 qualified interpreters, except any employee of the law enforcement  
27 agency, be assigned to interpret for such person throughout the course  
28 of the investigation.

29 (3) In any criminal investigation conducted by a duly organized law  
30 enforcement agency involving a minor child having a parent who is  
31 deaf or hearing impaired, whether as a victim, witness or suspect, the  
32 law enforcement agency shall make reasonable efforts to provide such  
33 parent with the services of qualified interpreters throughout the course  
34 of such investigation. No custodial interrogation of any deaf or hearing  
35 impaired suspect shall be conducted without a qualified interpreter.  
36 The law enforcement agency may request that (A) the commission  
37 assign qualified interpreters to interpret for such parent, or (B)  
38 qualified interpreters, except any employee of such law enforcement  
39 agency be assigned to interpret for such parent throughout the course  
40 of the investigation.

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

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

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

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

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

70 (g) The commission shall adopt regulations, in accordance with the  
71 provisions of chapter 54 of the general statutes, to implement the  
72 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

**HS**

*Joint Favorable Subst. C/R*

**JUD**