



House of Representatives

File No. 881

General Assembly

January Session, 2015

(Reprint of File No. 411)

Substitute House Bill No. 6765
As Amended by House Amendment
Schedule "A"

Approved by the Legislative Commissioner
May 22, 2015

AN ACT CONCERNING INTERPRETER QUALIFICATIONS.

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

1 Section 1. Section 46a-33a of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2015*):

3 (a) For the purposes of this section:

4 (1) "Interpreting" means the translating [or transliterating] of
5 English concepts to [a] the language [concept] concepts used by a
6 person who is deaf or hard of hearing or [means] the translating of a
7 deaf or hard of hearing person's language [concept] concepts to
8 English concepts [. Language concepts include, but are not limited to,]
9 through the use of American Sign Language, English-based sign
10 language, cued speech, oral transliterating and information received
11 tactually;

12 (2) "Interpreter" and "transliterater" mean an individual who
13 interprets or transliterates for a person who is (A) deaf or hard of
14 hearing, or (B) communicating with another person who is deaf or

15 hard of hearing;

16 (3) "Community setting" means any setting other than those
17 specifically identified as educational, legal or medical;

18 (4) "Community interpreter" means an individual who
19 demonstrates general knowledge of a variety of settings and the
20 vocabulary associated with those settings;

21 (5) "Conditional Legal Interpreting Permit-Relay" or "CLIP-R"
22 means a conditional permit designed for interpreters who have
23 completed a training program recognized by the Registry of
24 Interpreters for the Deaf (RID) and who work in legal settings;

25 (6) "Department" means the Department of Rehabilitation Services;

26 (7) "Educational setting" means (A) a school or other educational
27 institution or business, including an elementary school, a secondary
28 school or a high school, (B) a postsecondary, vocational-technical or
29 remediation school or program, and (C) all school-based programs,
30 services and activities available to any student and his or her family,
31 including, but not limited to, clubs, sports, parent-teacher
32 organizations, testing preparations, meetings, school assemblies,
33 concerts and theatrical productions;

34 (8) "Educational Interpreter Performance Assessment system" or
35 "EIPA", means the five-scale system developed and administered by
36 the Boys Town National Research Hospital that rates an educational
37 interpreter's skill, especially for those who interpret in prekindergarten
38 through grade twelve educational settings;

39 (9) "Educational interpreter" means an individual who demonstrates
40 (A) specialized knowledge of educational settings serving students
41 who are deaf or hard of hearing, (B) greater familiarity of language
42 used in the educational system, and (C) specialized knowledge of the
43 processes and services involved with an Individualized Educational
44 Plan (IEP) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973;

45 (10) "Legal interpreter" means an individual who demonstrates
46 specialized knowledge of legal settings and greater familiarity with
47 language used in the legal system;

48 [(2)] (11) "Legal setting" means any criminal or civil action involving
49 a court of competent jurisdiction, any investigation or action
50 conducted by a duly authorized law enforcement agency, employment
51 related hearings, [and] appointments and situations requiring the
52 presence of an attorney;

53 [(3)] (12) "Medical setting" means medical related situations
54 including mental health treatment, psychological evaluations,
55 substance abuse treatment, crisis intervention and appointments or
56 other treatment requiring the presence of a doctor, nurse or other
57 health care professional, including, but not limited to, at hospitals,
58 clinics, assisted living and rehabilitation facilities; [and]

59 [(4) "Educational setting" means a school or other educational
60 institution, including elementary, high school and post-graduation
61 schools where interpretive services are provided to a student.]

62 (13) "Medical interpreter" means an individual who demonstrates
63 specialized knowledge of medical settings and greater familiarity with
64 language used in the medical system;

65 (14) "Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf" or "RID" means the
66 national professional organization known as Registry of Interpreters
67 for the Deaf, Inc. of Alexandria, Virginia; and

68 (15) "Specialist Certificate: Legal" or "SC:L" means certification by
69 the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf that demonstrates specialized
70 knowledge of legal settings and greater familiarity with language used
71 in the legal system.

72 (b) [All] Except as provided in subsection (k) of this section, all
73 persons providing interpreting services shall register [,] annually [,]
74 with the [Department of Rehabilitation Services] department. Such

75 registration shall be on a form prescribed or furnished by the
76 [Commissioner of Rehabilitation Services] department and shall
77 include the registrant's name, residential or business address or both,
78 [phone number] contact information, place of employment as an
79 interpreter and interpreter certification or credentials. The department
80 may also require documentation of the registrant's training hours. The
81 department shall annually issue [identification] registration cards for
82 those who register in accordance with this section. The department
83 shall provide and maintain a current listing of those interpreters who
84 have registered pursuant to this section. The listing shall be made
85 available on the department's Internet web site.

86 (c) On and after October 1, 2015, a person shall be registered and
87 certified as a qualified interpreter in order to:

88 (1) Engage in the practice of or offer to engage in the practice of
89 interpreting for a consumer;

90 (2) Use the title "interpreter", "transliterator" or a similar title in
91 connection with services provided under his or her name;

92 (3) Present or identify himself or herself as an interpreter qualified
93 to engage in interpreting in this state;

94 (4) Use the title "interpreter", "transliterator" or a similar title in
95 advertisements or communications; or

96 (5) Perform the function of or convey the impression that he or she
97 is an interpreter or transliterator.

98 (d) On and after October 1, 2015, any business entity that employs
99 an interpreter within the state or provides interpreting services
100 through remote access from outside the state shall ensure the
101 interpreter is in compliance with the requirements of this section.

102 [(c)] (e) No person shall provide interpreting services in a legal
103 setting unless such person is registered with the [Department of
104 Rehabilitation Services] department according to the provisions of this

105 section and holds a (1) [has passed the National] CLIP-R from the
106 Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, [written generalist test or the
107 National Association of the Deaf-National Registry of Interpreters for
108 the Deaf certification knowledge examination, holds a level three
109 certification provided by the National Association of the Deaf,
110 documents the achievement of two continuing education units per
111 year for a maximum of five years of training approved by the
112 Commissioner of Rehabilitation Services, and on or before the fifth
113 anniversary of having passed the National Registry of Interpreters for
114 the Deaf written generalist test or the National Association of the Deaf-
115 National Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf certification knowledge
116 examination, has passed the National Registry of Interpreters for the
117 Deaf performance examination or the National Association of the
118 Deaf-National Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf national interpreter
119 certification examination, (2) has passed the National Registry of
120 Interpreters for the Deaf written generalist test or the National
121 Association of the Deaf-National Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf
122 certification knowledge examination and is a graduate of an accredited
123 interpreter training program and documents the achievement of two
124 continuing education units per year for a maximum of five years of
125 training approved by the commissioner, and on or before the fifth
126 anniversary of having passed the National Registry of Interpreters for
127 the Deaf written generalist test or the National Association of the Deaf-
128 National Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf certification knowledge
129 examination, has passed the National Registry of Interpreters for the
130 Deaf performance examination or the National Association of the
131 Deaf-National Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf national interpreter
132 certification examination, (3) holds a level four or higher certification
133 from the National Association of the Deaf, (4) holds certification by the
134 National Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, (5) for situations
135 requiring an oral interpreter only, holds oral certification from the
136 National Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, (6) for situations
137 requiring a cued speech transliterator only, holds certification from the
138 National Training, Evaluation and Certification Unit and has passed
139 the National Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf written generalist

140 test, (7) holds a reverse skills certificate or is a certified deaf interpreter
141 under the National Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, or (8) holds a
142 National Association of the Deaf-National Registry of Interpreters for
143 the Deaf national interpreting certificate.] (2) SC:L from the Registry of
144 Interpreters for the Deaf, (3) certification from the Registry of
145 Interpreters for the Deaf, for a minimum of five years, with
146 documentation of an initial minimum of thirty hours of legal
147 interpreting training and subsequent twenty hours of legal interpreter
148 training within the RID four-year Certificate Maintenance cycles, or (4)
149 level four or higher certification from the National Association of the
150 Deaf, for a minimum of five years, with documentation of an initial
151 minimum of thirty hours of legal interpreting training and subsequent
152 twenty hours of legal interpreting training within the RID four-year
153 Certificate Maintenance cycles.

154 [(d) No] (f) On or after July 1, 2017, no person shall provide
155 interpreting services in a medical setting unless such person is
156 registered with the [Department of Rehabilitation Services]
157 department according to the provisions of this section and (1) holds [a
158 comprehensive skills certificate] certification from the [National]
159 Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf with documentation of completion
160 of an initial minimum of thirty hours of medical interpreting training
161 and subsequent ten hours of medical interpreting training within the
162 RID four-year Certificate Maintenance cycles, (2) holds a [certificate of
163 interpretation or a certificate of transliteration from the National
164 Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, (3) holds a level four or higher
165 certification from the National Association of the Deaf, (4) holds a
166 reverse skills certificate or is a certified deaf interpreter under the
167 National Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, (5) for situations
168 requiring an oral interpreter only, holds oral certification from the
169 National Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, (6)] level four or higher
170 certification from the National Association of the Deaf with
171 documentation of completion of an initial minimum of thirty hours of
172 medical interpreting training and subsequent ten hours of medical
173 interpreting training within the RID four-year Certificate Maintenance

174 cycles, or (3) for situations requiring a cued speech transliterator only,
175 holds certification from the National Training, Evaluation and
176 Certification Unit and has passed the [National] Registry of
177 Interpreters for the Deaf written generalist test [, or (7) holds a
178 National Association of the Deaf-National Registry of Interpreters for
179 the Deaf national interpreting certificate] and provides documentation
180 of completion of an initial minimum of thirty hours of medical
181 interpreting training and subsequent ten hours of medical interpreter
182 training within the RID four-year Certificate Maintenance cycles.

183 [(e)] (g) (1) No person shall provide interpreting services in [a legal]
184 an educational setting unless such person is registered with the
185 [Department of Rehabilitation Services] department according to the
186 provisions of this section and [(1)] (A) holds [a comprehensive skills
187 certificate] certification from the [National] Registry of Interpreters for
188 the Deaf, [(2) holds a certificate of interpretation and a certificate of
189 transliteration from the National Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf,
190 (3)] (B) holds a level [five] three or higher certification from the
191 National Association of the Deaf, [(4) holds a reverse skills certificate
192 or is a certified deaf interpreter under the National Registry of
193 Interpreters for the Deaf, (5) for situations requiring an oral interpreter
194 only, holds oral certification from the National Registry of Interpreters
195 for the Deaf, (6)] (C) (i) is a graduate of an accredited interpreter
196 training program, (ii) has passed the Registry of Interpreters for the
197 Deaf written generalist test or EIPA written assessment and documents
198 the achievement of two continuing education units per year for a
199 maximum of five years of department-approved training, and (iii) on
200 or before the fifth anniversary of having passed the Registry of
201 Interpreters for the Deaf written generalist test or EIPA written
202 assessment, has passed the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf
203 national interpreter certification performance examination, or (D) for
204 situations requiring a cued speech transliterator only, holds
205 certification from the National Training, Evaluation and Certification
206 Unit and has passed the [National] Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf
207 written generalist test, [, or (7) holds a National Association of the

208 Deaf-National Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf national
209 interpreting certificate.]

210 (2) On or after July 1, 2017, no person shall provide interpreting
211 services in an educational setting unless such person is registered with
212 the department according to the provisions of this section and (A)
213 holds certification from the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, (B)
214 holds a level four or higher certification from the National Association
215 of the Deaf, (C) for prekindergarten through grade twelve settings, has
216 a minimum score of 3.5 on the EIPA performance assessment, (D) (i) is
217 a graduate of an accredited interpreter training program, (ii) has
218 passed the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf written generalist test
219 or EIPA written assessment and documents the achievement of two
220 continuing education units per year for a maximum of five years of
221 department-approved training, and (iii) on or before the fifth
222 anniversary of having passed the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf
223 written generalist test or EIPA written assessment, has passed the
224 Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf national interpreter certification
225 performance examination or EIPA performance assessment with a
226 minimum score of 3.5, (E) holds a level three certification from the
227 National Association of the Deaf and has passed the Registry of
228 Interpreters for the Deaf national interpreter certification performance
229 examination or EIPA performance assessment with a minimum score
230 of 3.5, or (F) for situations requiring a cued speech transliterator only,
231 holds certification from the National Training, Evaluation and
232 Certification Unit and has passed the Registry of Interpreters for the
233 Deaf written generalist test.

234 (h) Except as provided in subsection (k) of this section, no person
235 shall provide interpreting services in community settings unless such
236 person is registered with the department according to the provisions of
237 this section and (1) holds certification from the Registry of Interpreters
238 for the Deaf, (2) holds a level three or higher certification from the
239 National Association of the Deaf, (3) (A) is a graduate of an accredited
240 interpreter training program, (B) has passed the Registry of
241 Interpreters for the Deaf written generalist test and documents the

242 achievement of two continuing education units per year for a
243 maximum of five years of department-approved training, and (C) on
244 or before the fifth anniversary of having passed the Registry of
245 Interpreters for the Deaf written generalist test, has passed the Registry
246 of Interpreters for the Deaf national interpreter certification
247 performance examination, or (4) for situations requiring a cued speech
248 transliterator only, holds certification from the National Training,
249 Evaluation and Certification Unit and has passed the Registry of
250 Interpreters for the Deaf written generalist test.

251 [(f)] (i) The requirements of this section shall apply to persons who
252 receive compensation for the provision of interpreting services and
253 include those who provide interpreting services as part of their job
254 duties.

255 (j) Interpreters holding certificates other than those as described in
256 this section may apply to the department for a waiver of up to three
257 years in duration starting on the date that such waiver may be granted.
258 Upon review of the application, the department shall determine within
259 which settings the interpreter is deemed qualified to work, at which
260 time the interpreter may register with the department.

261 (k) The following individuals shall be exempt from the registration
262 requirements of this section:

263 (1) An individual interpreting at (A) a worship service conducted by
264 a religious entity, and (B) services for educational purposes conducted
265 by a religious entity or religiously affiliated school;

266 (2) An individual engaged in interpreting during an emergency
267 situation, when obtaining a registered interpreter or registered
268 transliterator could cause a delay that may lead to injury or loss to the
269 individual requiring the services, provided that such emergency
270 assistance does not waive any communication access requirements for
271 any entity pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act or Section
272 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as both may be amended from
273 time to time;

274 (3) An individual engaged in interpreting as part of a supervised
 275 internship or practicum at an accredited college or university or a
 276 mentorship program approved by the department if (A) such
 277 interpreting is not in a legal setting, a medical setting or an educational
 278 setting, or (B) the individual is accompanied by an interpreter
 279 registered pursuant to this section; or

280 (4) An interpreter from outside the state who is certified by the
 281 Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf or the National Association of the
 282 Deaf and provides interpreting services in the state for a period of time
 283 not exceeding fourteen days during a calendar year.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2015	46a-33a

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill, which makes technical changes to the credentialing requirements for interpreters, has no state or municipal impact.

House "A" makes clarifying changes that have no fiscal impact.

The Out Years

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

OLR Bill Analysis**sHB 6765 (as amended by House "A")*****AN ACT CONCERNING INTERPRETER QUALIFICATIONS.****SUMMARY:**

This bill creates credentialing requirements for interpreters in educational settings and updates or otherwise changes existing requirements for interpreters in legal, medical, and all other settings. Current law requires certain credentials for all settings and requires additional credentials for legal and medical settings. The bill instead specifies credential requirements for legal, medical, and educational settings and creates "community settings" as a new category to apply to all other settings that use interpreters.

By law, anyone providing interpreting services must register annually with the Department of Rehabilitation Services (DORS). The bill expands the circumstances in which interpreters must register and creates exceptions to this requirement.

Beginning October 1, 2015, the bill requires any business entity to ensure its interpreters comply with the bill if the business employs interpreters within the state or provides remote access from outside the state.

*House Amendment "A" (1) modifies situations requiring a medical interpreter, (2) delays implementation of interpreter requirements in medical settings, and (3) makes technical changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2015

DORS REGISTRATION***Interpreting***

By law, anyone providing interpreting services must register annually with DORS. The law defines “interpreting” as the translating of English concepts to a language concept used by a person who is deaf or hard of hearing or translating the deaf or hard of hearing person’s language concept to English concepts. Under current law, language concepts include but are not limited to the use of American Sign Language, English-based sign language, cued speech, oral transliterating, and information received tactually. The bill limits language concepts to these.

Beginning October 1, 2015, the bill requires a person to register and be certified as a qualified interpreter to:

1. interpret, or offer to interpret, to a consumer;
2. use the title of “interpreter”, “transliterator”, or a similar title (a) in connection with services provided under his or her name or (b) in advertisements or communications;
3. present or identify himself or herself as an interpreter qualified to interpret in the state;
4. perform the function of interpreting or transliterating; or
5. convey the impression that he or she is an interpreter or a transliterator.

Registration Form

By law, interpreters register on a DORS-prescribed form that includes the registrant’s name, address, place of employment as interpreter, and interpreter certifications or credentials. The bill requires the form to include the registrant’s contact information rather than his or her phone number, and specifies that the address on the form may be the registrant’s business or residential address, or both. The bill allows DORS to require documentation of the registrant’s training hours. Under the bill, DORS must provide, maintain, and publish on its website a current list of registered interpreters.

EDUCATIONAL SETTINGS

The bill creates qualification requirements for interpreters working in educational settings, defined in the bill as:

1. a school or other educational institution or business, including an elementary school, middle school, or high school;
2. a postsecondary, vocational-technical, or remediation school or program; and
3. all school-based programs, services, and activities available to any student and family, such as clubs, sports, parent-teacher organizations, testing preparations, meetings, school assemblies, concerts, and theatrical productions.

Under the bill, an “educational interpreter” is an individual who demonstrates:

1. specialized knowledge of educational settings serving students who are deaf or hard of hearing,
2. greater familiarity of language used in the educational system, and
3. specialized knowledge of the processes and services involved with an Individual Educational Plan (IEP) and Section 504 of the federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

New Requirements for Educational Settings

Current law does not require additional qualifications specific to educational settings. The bill implements more stringent qualification requirements in phases, in part by including in its requirements the Educational Interpreter Performance Assessment System (EIPA), a five-scale system developed and administered by Boys Town National Research Hospital that rates an educational interpreter’s skill, especially for those who interpret in prekindergarten through grade 12 educational settings.

Beginning July 1, 2015, the bill requires those interpreting in educational settings to qualify through one of the following ways:

1. received a certification from the national professional organization known as Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, Inc. (RID) of Alexandria, Virginia;
2. received a level three or higher National Association of the Deaf certification;
3. (a) graduated from an accredited interpreter training program, (b) passed the RID written generalist test or EIPA written assessment and documented achievement of two continuing education units per year for a maximum of five years of department-approved training, and (c) before or on the fifth anniversary of passing the RID written generalist test or EIPA written assessment, has passed the RID national interpreter certification performance examination; or
4. for situations requiring a cued speech transliterator only, (a) received a National Training, Evaluation, and Certification Unit certification and (b) passed the RID written generalist test (BACKGROUND).

Beginning July 1, 2017, the bill requires those interpreting in (1) prekindergarten through grade 12 settings to have a minimum score of 3.5 on the EIPA performance assessment and (2) other educational settings to qualify through one of the following ways:

1. received a certification from RID;
2. received a level four or higher National Association of the Deaf certification;
3. graduated from an accredited interpreter training program, (b) passing score on the RID written generalist test or EIPA written assessment and documented achievement of two continuing education units per year for a maximum of five years of DORS-

approved training, and (c) within five years of passing the RID written generalist test or EIPA written assessment, a passing score on the RID national interpreter certification performance exam or a minimum score of 3.5 on the EIPA performance assessment; or

4. received a level three certification from the National Association of the Deaf and a passing score on the RID national interpreter certification performance examination or a minimum score of 3.5 on the EIPA performance assessment; or
5. for situations requiring a cued speech transliterator only, (a) received a National Training, Evaluation, and Certification Unit certification and (b) passed the RID written generalist test.

OTHER SETTINGS

Community Settings

Under the bill, a community setting is any setting other than those specifically identified as educational, legal, or medical. The bill reduces the number of ways someone may qualify to interpret in these settings. Under current law, a level four or higher certification from the National Association of the Deaf suffices as qualification, as does a level three National Association of the Deaf certification in combination with other requirements while a person is working towards passing the RID performance examination or National Association of the Deaf-National Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf national interpreting certification. Under the bill, a level three National Association of the Deaf certification suffices as qualification.

By law and under the bill, those who have passed a RID written generalist test may interpret while they are working towards passing the RID performance examination, provided they also (1) graduated from an accredited interpreter training program, (2) document two continuing education units per year for a maximum of five years of training, and (3) pass the RID performance examination within five years of passing the RID written generalist test. The bill eliminates a

similar provision for those who have passed the National Association of the Deaf-National Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf certification knowledge examination and are working toward passing the National Association of the Deaf-National Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf national interpreter certification examination.

The bill eliminates the following qualifications that would allow someone to interpret in these settings under current law: (1) reverse skills certificate, (2) National Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf certified deaf interpreter, and (3) National Association of the Deaf-National Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf national interpreting certificate.

Legal Settings

By law, legal settings are (1) any criminal or civil action involving a court of competent jurisdiction, (2) any investigation conducted by a duly authorized law enforcement agency, (3) employment related hearings, and (4) appointments requiring the presence of an attorney. The bill expands situations categorized as legal settings to include (1) any actions, not just investigations, conducted by a duly authorized law enforcement agency and (2) any situation, not just appointments, requiring the presence of an attorney.

Under the bill, a legal interpreter is an individual who demonstrates specialized knowledge of legal settings and greater familiarity with language used in the legal system.

The bill eliminates all current credential requirements for legal settings, which are a:

1. RID comprehensive skills certificate,
2. RID certificate of interpretation and RID certificate of transliteration,
3. National Association of the Deaf level five certification,

4. RID reverse skills certificate, or
5. RID certified deaf interpreter.

The bill instead requires those interpreting in legal settings to qualify through one of the following ways:

1. obtain a Conditional Legal Interpreting Permit-Relay (CLIP-R), which is a conditional permit designed for interpreters who have completed a training program recognized by RID and who work in legal settings;
2. obtain a Specialist Certificate: Legal (SC:L), which is a RID certification demonstrating specialized knowledge of legal settings and greater familiarity with language used in the legal system;
3. obtain RID certification or at least a level four National Association of the Deaf certification for at least five years with (a) documentation of at least 30 hours of legal interpreting training and (b) a subsequent 20 hours of legal interpreter training within the RID four-year Certificate Maintenance Cycles; or
4. maintain at least a level four National Association of the Deaf certification for at least five years with (a) documentation of at least 30 hours of legal interpreting training and (b) a subsequent 20 hours of legal interpreter training within the RID four-year Certificate Maintenance Cycles.

The bill also eliminates legal setting credentials specific to situations requiring only (1) an oral interpreter or (2) a cued speech transliterator.

Medical Settings

By law, medical settings include mental health treatment, psychological evaluations, substance abuse treatment, crisis

intervention and appointments or treatment requiring the presence of a doctor, nurse, or other health care professional. The bill specifies that such settings include hospitals, clinics, assisted living, and rehabilitation facilities.

Under the bill, a medical interpreter is an individual who demonstrates specialized knowledge of medical settings and greater familiarity with language used in the medical system.

The bill eliminates all current credential requirements for medical settings, which are a:

1. RID comprehensive skills certificate,
2. RID certificate of interpretation,
3. RID certificate of transliteration,
4. National Association of the Deaf certificate of level four or higher,
5. RID reverse skills certificate,
6. RID certified deaf interpreter, or
7. National Association of the Deaf-National Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf national interpreting certificate.

Beginning July 1, 2017, the bill instead requires (1) either RID certification or a National Association of the Deaf certificate of level four or higher and (2) documentation of at least 30 hours of medical interpreting training followed by 10 hours of medical interpreting training within the RID four-year Certificate Maintenance cycles.

By law, for medical settings requiring only a cued speech transliterator, the interpreter must have (1) certification from the National Training, Evaluation and Certification Unit and (2) passed the RID written generalist test. Beginning July 1, 2017, the bill adds to this

requirement documentation of at least 30 hours of medical interpreting training followed by 10 hours of medical interpreting training within the RID four-year Certificate Maintenance cycles.

EXCEPTIONS

Waivers

The bill allows interpreters holding certificates other than those required by law to apply to DORS for a waiver for up to three years beginning on the date DORS grants the waiver. After reviewing the interpreter's application and determining in what settings he or she may work, DORS may allow the interpreter to register with the department.

Exemptions

The bill exempts from its registration requirements individuals interpreting:

1. at a worship service conducted by a religious entity;
2. at services for educational purposes conducted by a religious entity or religiously affiliated school;
3. as part of a supervised internship or practicum at an accredited college or university or a DORS-approved mentorship program if (a) such interpreting is not in a legal, medical, or educational setting or (b) the individual is accompanied by an interpreter registered according to the bill's requirements.

The bill also exempts interpreters certified by RID or the National Association of the Deaf in other states if they provide interpreting services in Connecticut for no more than 14 days per calendar year.

Finally, the bill exempts individuals interpreting during an emergency situation when obtaining a registered interpreter or registered transliterator could cause delay and lead to injury or loss to the individual requiring services. Under the bill, this provision does not waive any federal requirements concerning communication access

under the Americans with Disabilities Act or Section 504 of the 1973 Rehabilitation Act.

BACKGROUND

Oral Transliterating

Oral transliterators use methods of communication beyond ASL, such as gestures or spelling out numbers and words, to facilitate communication. During meetings or other events with multiple speakers, people who lip-read may have difficulty identifying who is speaking and miss some of what is said as a result. An oral transliterator allows them to focus on one person. The oral transliterator may also mouth words that are easier to lip-read while preserving the meaning of what is said.

Cued Speech

Cued speech is a visual communication system developed to help raise the literacy levels of deaf individuals. It uses the mouth movements of speech in combination with cues to make all the sounds of spoken language appear different.

Related Bill

sHB 6941, reported favorably by the Human Services Committee and passed by the House, requires state agencies to request deaf and hard of hearing interpreting services from DORS unless the agency can fulfill a request for interpreting services with its own interpreting staff.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Human Services Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 18 Nay 0 (03/19/2015)

Education Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 32 Nay 0 (05/11/2015)