



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 386

January Session, 2015

Substitute House Bill No. 6941

House of Representatives, April 1, 2015

The Committee on Human Services reported through REP. ABERCROMBIE of the 83rd Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING STATE AGENCY INTERPRETER SERVICES.

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2015*) For purposes of this section,
2 "state agency" has the same meaning as provided in section 1-91 of the
3 general statutes and "interpreting" has the same meaning as provided
4 in section 46a-33a of the general statutes. Any state agency that is
5 unable to fulfill a request for interpreting services with its own
6 interpreting staff shall first request such services from the Department
7 of Rehabilitation Services and may seek such services elsewhere if the
8 department is unable to fulfill the request in a reasonable amount of
9 time. The provisions of this section shall not apply to the Department
10 of Rehabilitation Services if the department needs interpreting services
11 related to an internal matter and the use of department interpreters
12 may raise confidentiality concerns. Interpreting services provided by a
13 state agency shall be in accordance with the provisions of section 46a-
14 33a of the general statutes.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2015</i>	New section

HS *Joint Favorable Subst.*

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 requires state agencies without interpreting staff to request interpreting services from the Department of Rehabilitation Services, is not anticipated to result in a fiscal impact as it codifies current practice.

Background

In FY 14, 26 state agencies, including 15 colleges and UCONN (6 campuses) received approximately 31,000 hours of deaf and hard of hearing interpreting services from the Department of Rehabilitation Services (DORS) at a cost of \$1.5 million. Seven of these agencies also paid for services for non-DORS interpreters. When DORS is unable to accommodate an agency's request for service, the agency is served by non-DORS interpreters.

The Out Years**State Impact:** None**Municipal Impact:** None

Sources: Core-CT Financial Accounting System

OLR Bill Analysis**sHB 6941****AN ACT CONCERNING STATE AGENCY INTERPRETER SERVICES.****SUMMARY:**

This bill requires state agencies to request deaf and hard of hearing interpreting services from the Department of Rehabilitation Services (DORS) unless the agency can fulfill a request for interpreting services with its own interpreting staff. Under the bill, if DORS cannot fulfill the request in a reasonable amount of time, the agency may seek such services elsewhere. (The bill does not define a reasonable amount of time.)

The bill exempts DORS from its requirements if DORS needs interpreting services related to an internal matter and the use of department interpreters may raise confidentiality issues.

By law, anyone who receives compensation for providing interpreting services or provides such services as part of his or her job duties must be registered with DORS and meet certain qualification requirements (CGS § 46a-33a). The bill specifies that interpreting services provided by state agencies must be in compliance with this law.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2015

BACKGROUND***DORS Interpreting Services***

By law, DORS must provide interpreting services, to the extent providers of interpreting services are available, upon request for any person, public entity, or private entity. Any recipient of such services through DORS must reimburse DORS through rates set by the

department's commissioner (CGS § 46a-33b).

State Agencies

The law defines "state agency" as any office, department, board, council, commission, institution, constituent unit of the state system of higher education, technical high school, or other agency in the executive, legislative, or judicial branch (CGS § 1-91 (23)).

Related Bills

sHB 6765, reported favorably by the Human Services Committee; (1) alters the definition of interpreting; (2) creates new qualification requirements for educational settings; and (3) updates, increases, or otherwise changes qualification requirements for other settings.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Human Services Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 18 Nay 0 (03/19/2015)