

This Document can be made available in alternative formats upon request

State of Minnesota

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NINETY-THIRD SESSION

H. F. No. 1282

02/06/2023 Authored by Daniels, Fogelman and Newton
The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Health Finance and Policy

1.1 A bill for an act
1.2 relating to occupational licensing; creating the Board of Sign Language Interpreters
1.3 and Transliterators; requiring licensure; authorizing rulemaking; amending
1.4 Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 546.44, subdivision 1; proposing coding for new
1.5 law as Minnesota Statutes, chapter 156B.

1.6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

1.7 Section 1. 156B.01 DEFINITIONS.

1.8 (a) For the purposes of this chapter, the following terms have the meanings given.

1.9 (b) "Board" means the Board of Sign Language Interpreters and Transliterators established
1.10 under this chapter.

1.11 (c) "Department" means the Department of Health.

1.12 (d) "Interpreter training program" means a postsecondary education program training
1.13 individuals to interpret or transliterate.

1.14 (e) "Interpreting" means facilitating communication between individuals who
1.15 communicate by sign language and other individuals using sign language, spoken words,
1.16 and printed words.

1.17 (f) "Licensee" means any person licensed by the state to practice interpreting or
1.18 transliterating for deaf, deafblind, hard-of-hearing, and hearing individuals in this state.

1.19 (g) "Transliterating" means facilitating communication between individuals who
1.20 communicate via spoken words from one language into another, including printed words.

2.1 Sec. 2. **[156B.05] BOARD OF SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETERS AND**
2.2 **TRANSLITERATORS CREATED; TERMS.**

2.3 (a) A Board of Sign Language Interpreters and Transliterators is established to consist
2.4 of seven members, appointed by the governor as follows:

2.5 (1) two interpreters, one of whom is hearing and one of whom is deaf, and both of whom
2.6 are recommended by a professional association of interpreters;

2.7 (2) one postsecondary instructor of an interpreting training program in the state;

2.8 (3) one individual representing a large employer or business that generates a high volume
2.9 of interpreter requests; and

2.10 (4) three individuals, two of whom are deaf users of interpreting services and one of
2.11 whom is a deafblind user of interpreting services.

2.12 (b) Membership terms, compensation of members, removal of members, the filling of
2.13 membership vacancies, and fiscal year and reporting requirements shall be as provided in
2.14 sections 214.07 to 214.09. The provision of staff, administrative services, and office space;
2.15 the review and processing of complaints; the setting of board fees; and other provisions
2.16 relating to board operations shall be as provided in chapter 214.

2.17 (c) Members appointed to fill vacancies caused by death, resignation, or removal shall
2.18 serve during the unexpired term of their predecessors.

2.19 Sec. 3. **[156B.10] BOARD DUTIES.**

2.20 The board shall administer this chapter. The board shall:

2.21 (1) adopt rules consistent with this chapter and chapter 14 that are necessary for the
2.22 performance of the board's duties;

2.23 (2) act on matters concerning licensure and the process of applying for, granting,
2.24 suspending, imposing supervisory or probationary conditions upon, reinstating, and revoking
2.25 a license;

2.26 (3) administer the provisions of this chapter regarding documentation required to
2.27 demonstrate competence as an interpreter or a transliterator, and process of applications for
2.28 licenses and license renewals;

2.29 (4) establish and maintain as a matter of public record a registry of interpreters and
2.30 transliterators licensed under this chapter;

2.31 (5) develop continuing education requirements as a condition of license renewal;

- 3.1 (6) evaluate requirements for licensure in other states to determine if reciprocity may
3.2 be granted;
- 3.3 (7) develop requirements for licensure;
- 3.4 (8) develop requirements for temporary licensure; and
- 3.5 (9) determine what exceptions apply.

3.6 Sec. 4. [156B.15] FEES.

3.7 Subdivision 1. Fees. (a) Beginning July 1, 2024, the initial and renewal fees for
3.8 interpreters licensed under this chapter is \$60.

3.9 (b) The renewal late fee for the registry is \$30.

3.10 Subd. 2. Nonrefundable. The fees in this section are nonrefundable.

3.11 Subd. 3. Fee proration. The board shall not prorate the fees required under this section.

3.12 Subd. 4. Deposit; appropriation. Fees received under this chapter shall be deposited
3.13 in the state government special revenue fund and are appropriated to the board for purposes
3.14 of section 156B.10.

3.15 Sec. 5. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 546.44, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

3.16 Subdivision 1. **Qualifications.** No person shall be appointed as a qualified interpreter
3.17 pursuant to sections 546.42 to 546.44 unless that person is licensed under chapter 156B,
3.18 readily able to communicate with the disabled person, translate the proceedings for the
3.19 disabled person, and accurately repeat and translate the statements of the disabled person
3.20 to the officials before whom the proceeding is taking place.