

256C.25 INTERPRETER SERVICES.

Subdivision 1. **Establishment.** The Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Services Division shall maintain and coordinate statewide interpreting or interpreter referral services for use by any public or private agency or individual in the state. The division shall directly coordinate these services but may contract with an appropriate agency to provide this service. The division may collect a \$3 fee per referral for interpreter referral services and the actual costs of interpreter services provided by department staff. Fees and payments collected shall be deposited in the general fund. The \$3 referral fee shall not be collected from state agencies or local units of government or deaf or hard-of-hearing consumers or interpreters.

Subd. 2. **Duties.** Interpreting or interpreter referral services must include:

- (1) statewide access to interpreter referral and direct interpreting services, coordinated with the regional service centers;
- (2) maintenance of a statewide directory of qualified interpreters;
- (3) assessment of the present and projected supply and demand for interpreter services statewide; and
- (4) coordination with the regional service centers on projects to train interpreters and advocate for and evaluate interpreter services.

History: 1980 c 574 s 5; 1Sp1985 c 14 art 9 s 25; 1987 c 302 s 3,4; 1991 c 292 art 3 s 9; 1993 c 306 s 13; 1996 c 392 s 4; 1999 c 149 s 4