

**First Regular Session
Seventy-second General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO**

PREAMENDED

*This Unofficial Version Includes Committee
Amendments Not Yet Adopted on Second Reading*

LLS NO. 19-0410.01 Jery Payne x2157

HOUSE BILL 19-1069

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Jackson,

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Danielson,

House Committees

Health & Insurance
Appropriations

Senate Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING THE CERTIFICATION OF SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETERS**
102 **FOR THE PURPOSE OF TITLE PROTECTION, AND, IN CONNECTION**
103 **THEREWITH, MAKING AN APPROPRIATION.**

Bill Summary

(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at <http://leg.colorado.gov>.)

Current law requires a person to be certified by the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, Inc., to use any of the following titles:

- ! "Sign language interpreter";
- ! "Interpreter for the deaf";
- ! "Deaf interpreter";

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.
*Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing statute.
Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.*

! "ASL-English interpreter";
! "American sign language (ASL) interpreter";
! "Transliterator";
! "Certified sign language interpreter";
! "Certified interpreter for the deaf";
! "Certified deaf interpreter";
! "Certified ASL-English interpreter";
! "Certified American sign language (ASL) interpreter"; or
! "Certified transliterator".

The bill adds "translator" and "certified translator" for sign language to the list of titles.

The bill also authorizes the Colorado commission for the deaf, hard of hearing, and deafblind to approve certifications of sign language interpreters to use the mentioned titles.

1 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 6-1-707, **amend** (1)
3 introductory portion and (1)(e) as follows:

4 **6-1-707. Use of title or degree - deceptive trade practice.** (1) A
5 person engages in a deceptive trade practice when, in the course of ~~such~~
6 THE person's business, vocation, or occupation, ~~such~~ THE person:

7 (e) (I) Claims to be a "sign language interpreter", "interpreter for
8 the deaf", "deaf interpreter", "ASL-English interpreter", "American sign
9 language (ASL) interpreter", "TRANSLATOR" FOR SIGN LANGUAGE,
10 "transliterator", "certified sign language interpreter", "CERTIFIED
11 TRANSLATOR" FOR SIGN LANGUAGE, "certified interpreter for the deaf",
12 "certified deaf interpreter", "certified ASL-English interpreter", "certified
13 American sign language (ASL) interpreter", or "certified transliterator",
14 unless ~~he or she~~ THE PERSON holds:

15 (A) A ~~current~~ CURRENTLY VALID certification issued by the
16 Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, INC., or a successor ~~organization~~.
17 ENTITY; OR

1 (B) ANY CURRENTLY VALID CERTIFICATION FOR SIGN LANGUAGE
2 INTERPRETATION THAT IS APPROVED BY THE COLORADO COMMISSION FOR
3 THE DEAF, HARD OF HEARING, AND DEAFBLIND.

4 (II) A PERSON WHO USES ANY OF THE TITLES LISTED IN THIS
5 SUBSECTION (1)(e) SHALL MAKE AVAILABLE FOR IMMEDIATE INSPECTION
6 BY ANY CONSUMER OR AGENT OF THE STATE:

7 (A) A CURRENTLY VALID CERTIFICATION FROM THE Registry of
8 Interpreters for the Deaf, INC., or A successor organization, membership
9 card that shows proof of current membership and certification shall be
10 made available for immediate inspection and review by any consumer or
11 agent of the state of Colorado. ENTITY; OR

12 (B) A CURRENTLY VALID CERTIFICATION THAT IS APPROVED IN
13 ACCORDANCE WITH SUBSECTION (1)(e)(I)(B) OF THIS SECTION.

14 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 26-21-106, **add** (1)(f)
15 as follows:

16 **26-21-106. Powers, functions, and duties of commission -**
17 **community access program - report.** (1) The powers, functions, and
18 duties of the commission include:

19 (f) APPROVING AN ENTITY'S CERTIFICATION OF SIGN LANGUAGE
20 INTERPRETERS IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 6-1-707 (1)(e)(I)(B).

21 **SECTION 3. Appropriation.** (1) For the 2019-20 state fiscal
22 year, \$19,440 is appropriated to the department of regulatory agencies for
23 use by the public utilities commission. This appropriation is from the
24 Colorado telephone users with disabilities fund created in section
25 40-17-104 (1), C.R.S. To implement this act, the public utilities
26 commission may use this appropriation for the commission for the deaf
27 and hard of hearing cash fund.

1 (2) For the 2019-20 state fiscal year, \$19,440 is appropriated to
2 the department of human services for use by the executive director's
3 office. This appropriation is from reappropriated funds received from the
4 department of regulatory agencies under subsection (1) of this section. To
5 implement this act, the office may use this appropriation for the Colorado
6 commission for the deaf and hard of hearing.

7 **SECTION 4. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act
8 takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the
9 ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly (August
10 2, 2019, if adjournment sine die is on May 3, 2019); except that, if a
11 referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V of the
12 state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this act
13 within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take effect
14 unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in
15 November 2020 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the
16 official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.