

**Fifty-seventh Legislative Assembly of North Dakota
In Regular Session Commencing Tuesday, January 9, 2001**

HOUSE BILL NO. 1304
(Representatives Maragos, Brekke)
(Senator Traynor)

AN ACT to create and enact a new chapter to title 43 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the practice of interpreting for the deaf and hard-of-hearing.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

SECTION 1. A new chapter to title 43 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and enacted as follows:

Definitions. As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise requires:

1. "Consumer" means an individual who is deaf, deaf-blind, speech-impaired, hard-of-hearing, or who requires special communication techniques in order to communicate.
2. "Interpreter" means an individual who engages in the practice of interpreting.
3. "Interpreting" means the translating or transliterating of English concepts to any necessary specialized vocabulary used by a consumer or translating of a consumer's specialized vocabulary to English concepts. Necessary specialized vocabularies include American sign language, English-based sign language, and oral interpreting.
4. "Nationally recognized certification" means certification granted by a national organization that is based on a skills assessment of the applicant. These organizations include the registry of interpreters for the deaf and the national association of the deaf.

Practice of interpreting. An individual may not practice or represent oneself as an interpreter for deaf, deaf-blind, speech-impaired, or hard-of-hearing individuals in the state unless the individual holds a valid nationally recognized certification. However, an individual who was practicing as an interpreter in this state before August 1, 2001, has until July 31, 2003, to meet the certification requirement under this section.

Exceptions. This chapter does not prevent or restrict:

1. A nonresident interpreter working in this state not more than nineteen days per year.
2. An interpreter working at a religious activity.
3. An interpreter working as a volunteer without compensation.
4. An interpreter working in an emergency. An emergency is a situation in which the consumer decides that the length of time needed to obtain a licensed interpreter is likely to cause injury or loss to the consumer.
5. The activities and services of an interpreter intern or student-in-training enrolled in a program of study in interpreting at an accredited institution of higher learning; interpreting under the supervision of a licensed interpreter as part of a supervised program; and identified as an interpreter intern or student-in-training.
6. An individual using sign language or a manual communication system as a means of communication with or on behalf of a family member, a deaf individual, a deaf-blind individual, a speech-impaired individual, or hard-of-hearing individual who has specifically requested that use by that individual.

7. A communication made as a reasonable accommodation for the employment of a deaf, deaf-blind, speech-impaired, or hard-of-hearing individual.
8. A communication with a deaf, deaf-blind, speech-impaired, or hard-of-hearing individual who could not communicate using American sign language or English-based sign language.

Speaker of the House

President of the Senate

Chief Clerk of the House

Secretary of the Senate

This certifies that the within bill originated in the House of Representatives of the Fifty-seventh Legislative Assembly of North Dakota and is known on the records of that body as House Bill No. 1304.

House Vote: Yeas 93 Nays 2 Absent 3

Senate Vote: Yeas 48 Nays 1 Absent 0

Chief Clerk of the House

Received by the Governor at _____ M. on _____, 2001.

Approved at _____ M. on _____, 2001.

Governor

Filed in this office this _____ day of _____, 2001,

at _____ o'clock _____ M.

Secretary of State