

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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LAWS
OF THE
STATE OF MAINE

AS PASSED BY THE

ONE HUNDRED AND NINTH LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

January 3, 1979 to June 15, 1979

PUBLISHED BY THE DIRECTOR OF LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH IN ACCORDANCE WITH MAINE REVISED STATUTES ANNOTATED, TITLE 3, SECTION 164, SUBSECTION 6.

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PUBLIC LAWS
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STATE OF MAINE
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Sec. 2. 32 MRSA § 1554, as enacted by PL 1977, c. 398, § 10, is repealed.

Effective September 14, 1979

CHAPTER 88

S. P. 80 — L. D. 157

AN ACT to Provide Interpreter Service for the Hearing Impaired.

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine, as follows:

Sec. 1. 5 MRSA § 48, sub-§ 1, ¶ A, as enacted by PL 1977, c. 704, § 1, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

A. "Compensation" means the fee for an interpreter's time of service as provided by an appointed qualified interpreter.

Sec. 2. 5 MRSA § 48, sub-§ 1, ¶¶ G to I, as enacted by PL 1977, c. 704, § 1, are repealed and the following enacted in their place:

G. "Qualified interpreter" means a person with the knowledge and understanding of the code of ethics of the National Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf who is able to recognize the comprehension level of a deaf or hearing impaired person and is able to communicate effectively in a mode of communication used by the deaf or hearing impaired person and to interpret accurately the statements of the deaf or hearing impaired person.

H. "Agency" means any authority, board, bureau, commission, department or officer of State Government, or of any county, municipality, school district or any other political or administrative subdivision.

I. "Travel expenses" means actual expense for transportation reimbursable at the usual state mileage rate, tolls, parking fees or other fees specified in an agreement between an interpreter or an interpreter agency and an agency or court retaining the services of the interpreter at a specific date, time and place.

Sec. 3. 5 MRSA § 48, sub-§ 2, ¶¶ A, B and D, as enacted by PL 1977, c. 704, § 1, are repealed and the following enacted in their place:

A. Whenever any personal or property interest of a deaf or hearing impaired person is the subject of a proceeding before any agency or court, the presiding officer of the proceeding shall, in consultation with the deaf or hearing impaired person, appoint a qualified interpreter.

B. In appointing a qualified interpreter, the presiding officer shall give first consideration to persons who are certified by the National Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf.

D. The interpreter shall be appointed after consultation with the deaf or hearing impaired person. If the appointed qualified interpreter does not meet the needs of the deaf or hearing impaired person, the presiding officer shall, with the consent of the deaf or hearing impaired person, appoint another qualified interpreter.

Sec. 4. 5 MRSA § 48, sub-§ 3, ¶¶ B and C, as enacted by PL 1977, c. 704, § 1, are repealed and the following enacted in their place:

B. When requested by an agency or court, the Bureau of Rehabilitation shall furnish the agency or court with a directory of information on appropriate and qualified interpreter sources.

C. An interpreter appointed under this section shall be reimbursed by the Bureau of Rehabilitation, upon certification by the appropriate agency or court of services performed, at a fixed rate reflecting the current fee schedule as established by the Bureau of Rehabilitation, plus travel expenses; provided that the rate shall not exceed \$15 an hour and that employees of the State or any of its political subdivisions, public employees and public or private school, university and college teachers or administrators for interpreting services or anyone who receives salary during regular work hours shall not be reimbursed under this section for interpreter services performed during their regular working hours. Nothing in this section shall be construed as preventing any agency or court from employing a qualified interpreter on a full-time basis or under contract at a mutually agreed upon compensation rate.

Effective September 14, 1979

CHAPTER 89

S. P. 136 — L. D. 313

AN ACT to Amend the Geologists and Soil Scientists Certification Act.

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine, as follows:

Sec. 1. 32 MRSA § 4904, as enacted by PL 1973, c. 558, § 1, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

§ 4904. Corporations, partnerships, associations and government agencies