

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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121st MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2003

Legislative Document

No. 1165

H.P. 862

House of Representatives, March 5, 2003

An Act To Provide Qualified Interpretation and Translation Services in Workers' Compensation Proceedings

Reference to the Committee on Labor suggested and ordered printed.

Millicent M. MacFarland
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND
Clerk

Presented by Representative NORBERT of Portland. (BY REQUEST)

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

4 **Sec. 1. 39-A MRSA §153-B** is enacted to read:

6 **§153-B. Translators, interpreters required**

8 **1. Requirement.** The board shall provide qualified
10 translation and interpretation services to an employee with
12 limited English proficiency at every stage of proceedings under
14 this Act beginning with receipt of the employer's report of
injury pursuant to section 303 and with respect to every
communication with that employee. The board shall ensure that
the interpreters and translators assigned to employees with
limited English proficiency under this section:

16 A. Have sufficient training in interpreting, ethics,
18 confidentiality and the process and procedures involved in
pursuing a claim under this Act;

20 B. Are sufficiently fluent in the required languages; and

22 C. Are made available to employees with limited English
24 proficiency throughout the duration of the processing of the
claim and resolution of dispute.

26 **2. Telephone interpreting service.** The board shall
28 contract with a telephone interpreting service to provide prompt
communication with employees with limited English proficiency.

30 **3. Identification of employees in need of translation or**
32 **interpretation assistance.** The board shall provide training to
its staff in methods to effectively identify employees in need of
translation or interpretation assistance.

34 **4. Provision of services to witnesses.** The board shall
36 provide translation and interpretation services qualified in
38 accordance with subsection 1 to witnesses or prospective
40 witnesses with limited English proficiency who appear or are
called to appear in proceedings before the board and with respect
to every communication with those witnesses or prospective
witnesses.

44 **SUMMARY**

46 This bill requires the Workers' Compensation Board to
48 provide qualified interpretation and translation services to
persons with limited English proficiency.