

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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122nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2005

Legislative Document

No. 446

S.P. 144

In Senate, January 27, 2005

An Act To Mandate Payment of Certified Deaf Interpreters for Driver Education Students

Reference to the Committee on Transportation suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joy J. O'Brien".

JOY J. O'BRIEN
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by President EDMONDS of Cumberland.

Cosponsored by Senator: DAMON of Hancock, Representative: BLANCHETTE of Bangor.

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

4 **Sec. 1. 29-A MRSA §1357** is enacted to read:

6 **§1357. Communication services for deaf and hard-of-hearing persons**

8 **1. Definitions.** As used in this section, unless the
10 context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the
following meanings.

12 A. "CART" means computer-assisted real-time transcription
14 using specialized equipment to transcribe real-time
word-for-word spoken English into written English that can
16 be viewed on a computer screen or projected onto a large
screen.

18 B. "CART provider" means a person who provides CART.

20 C. "Certified deaf interpreter" means a deaf or
22 hard-of-hearing person with native or near-native fluency in
American Sign Language who is licensed under Title 32,
24 chapter 22.

26 D. "Deaf person" means a person whose sense of hearing is
nonfunctional for the purpose of communication and who must
depend primarily upon visual communication.

28 E. "Hard-of-hearing person" means a person who has a
30 hearing loss resulting in a functional loss, but not to the
extent that the person must depend primarily upon visual
32 communication.

34 **2. Certified deaf interpreter services or CART required for**
36 **driver education.** When a deaf or hard-of-hearing person is
required to complete a driver education course and examination
38 pursuant to section 1351 or 1352, the Secretary of State shall
provide a certified deaf interpreter or CART provider to allow
40 for completion of the driver education course and examination.
Certified deaf interpreter services or CART provided under this
42 section must be paid for by the Secretary of State.

44 **SUMMARY**

46 This bill requires the Secretary of State to provide
48 certified deaf interpreter services or computer-assisted
real-time transcription for deaf and hard-of-hearing persons
required to complete a driver education or motorcycle driver

2 education course and examination in order to qualify for a
driver's license or instruction permit.