

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Date: 3/23/2021

(Filing No. S- 32)

INNOVATION, DEVELOPMENT, ECONOMIC ADVANCEMENT AND BUSINESS

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STATE OF MAINE
SENATE
130TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to S.P. 25, L.D. 18, "An Act To Clarify the American Sign Language Interpreters Licensing Laws"

Amend the bill by striking out everything after the enacting clause and inserting the following:

Sec. 1. 32 MRSA §1521, sub-§1-D, as enacted by PL 2019, c. 284, §4, is amended to read:

1-D. Conditional license. "Conditional license" means a license granted to an applicant who has completed the educational met the requirements under of section 1524-C, passed a national interpreter certification knowledge exam and passed an American Sign Language proficiency interview but who is not certified with the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, Inc. or a comparable or successor organization recognized by the director.

Sec. 2. 32 MRSA §1521, sub-§7, as enacted by PL 2019, c. 284, §7, is repealed.

Sec. 3. 32 MRSA §1524-C, sub-§1, as enacted by PL 2019, c. 284, §12, is amended to read:

1. Proof of proficiency in American Sign Language. Documented proof of a qualifying score of 3.5 or higher on an American Sign Language proficiency interview as determined by the director by rule adopted under section 1522; and

Sec. 4. 32 MRSA §1524-C, sub-§2, as enacted by PL 2019, c. 284, §12, is repealed.

Sec. 5. 32 MRSA §1524-C, sub-§3 is enacted to read:

3. Proof of education and training in the interpreting process. Documented proof of the following:

A. At least one of the following:

(1) An associate degree or higher in American Sign Language, American Sign Language interpreting or deaf studies from an accredited college or university; or

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1 (2) For persons holding a limited license that is current on the effective date of this
2 section, an alternative pathway approved by the Registry of Interpreters for the
3 Deaf, Inc. or a comparable or successor organization recognized by the director;
4 and

5 B. A passing score on a knowledge exam administered by the Registry of Interpreters
6 for the Deaf, Inc. or a comparable or successor organization recognized by the director.

7 **Sec. 6. Standards until rules adopted.** Until rules are adopted under the Maine
8 Revised Statutes, Title 32, section 1524-C, subsection 1 defining a qualifying score on an
9 American Sign Language proficiency interview, a person with a score of 3+ or higher on
10 an American Sign Language proficiency interview is deemed to have met the requirements
11 of that subsection.'

12 Amend the bill by relettering or renumbering any nonconsecutive Part letter or section
13 number to read consecutively.

14 **SUMMARY**

15 This amendment:

16 1. Removes specific language related to the requirements of licensure from the
17 definition of "conditional license," since the definition already contains a reference to the
18 section of statute that outlines those requirements;

19 2. Gives the Director of the Office of Professional and Occupational Regulation within
20 the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation rule-making authority related to
21 a qualifying score on an American Sign Language proficiency interview. It also provides
22 that a score of 3+ or higher is a qualifying score until the director is able to complete the
23 rule-making process; and

24 3. Removes the specific names of 2 separate knowledge exams that are no longer being
25 used and replaces that language with reference to the knowledge exam administered by the
26 Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, Inc.

27 **FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED**

28 (See attached)



130th MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 18

LR 119(02)

An Act To Clarify the American Sign Language Interpreters Licensing Laws

Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-32)
Committee: Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business
Fiscal Note Required: Yes

Fiscal Note

Minor cost increase - Other Special Revenue Funds

Fiscal Detail and Notes

Additional costs to the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation, Office of Professional and Occupational Regulation, associated with the rule-making process can be absorbed within existing budgeted resources.