



General Assembly

January Session, 2025

Raised Bill No. 6932

LCO No. 4586



Referred to Committee on HUMAN SERVICES

Introduced by:
(HS)

***AN ACT CONCERNING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A STATE
INTERPRETING STANDARDS BOARD.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

- 1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2025*) (a) There is established an
2 Interpreting Standards Board which shall be appointed not later than
3 October 1, 2025, by the director of the Bureau of Services for Persons
4 Who are Deaf, Deafblind or Hard of Hearing. Said board shall be located
5 within the Department of Aging and Disability Services. The board
6 shall:
- 7 (1) Establish education, training and certification requirements for
8 interpreters working in community, educational, legal and medical
9 settings and operational standards for interpreter agencies and service
10 providers providing interpreting services in these settings;
- 11 (2) Issue annual interpreter registration cards, listing the type of
12 settings in which the registrant is qualified to interpret;
- 13 (3) Consider educational, training, internship, apprenticeship,
14 mentorship and credentialing needs for interpreters;

15 (4) Receive and respond to requests and referrals from persons who
16 are deaf, deafblind or hard of hearing, other members of the public and
17 the Advisory Board for Persons Who are Deaf, Deafblind or Hard of
18 Hearing;

19 (5) Receive and review all complaints concerning noncompliance
20 with section 17a-838 of the general statutes, as amended by this act, and
21 regulations adopted thereunder and recommend sanctions for such
22 noncompliance to the director of the Bureau of Services for Persons Who
23 are Deaf, Deafblind or Hard of Hearing and the Commissioner of Aging
24 and Disability Services; and

25 (6) Make recommendations to the Commissioner of Aging and
26 Disability Services on regulations and legislation concerning
27 qualifications of interpreters for persons who are deaf, deafblind or hard
28 of hearing.

29 (b) The director of the Bureau of Services for Persons Who are Deaf,
30 Deafblind or Hard of Hearing, in consultation with the Commissioner
31 of Aging and Disability Services, shall appoint nine board members,
32 with at least six reflecting the geographic and racial diversity of the state,
33 as follows, providing the members assent to such appointments:

34 (1) The president of the Connecticut Association of the Deaf, or the
35 president's designee;

36 (2) The president of the Connecticut Registry of Interpreters of the
37 Deaf, or the president's designee;

38 (3) The president of the DeafBlind Association of Connecticut, or the
39 president's designee;

40 (4) Two interpreter professionals, including one member
41 representing deaf interpreter professionals and one member
42 representing hearing interpreter professionals; and

43 (5) Four consumers of interpreting services, one each representing

44 consumers who are hearing, deaf, deafblind and hard of hearing.

45 (c) Interpreter professionals and consumers appointed to the board
46 shall, for not less than three years, (1) have been residents of the state,
47 and (2) have experience providing or using interpreting services,
48 interacting with persons who are deaf, deafblind or hard of hearing and
49 familiarity with interpreting issues and professional standards for
50 interpreting. Priority in interpreter professional appointments shall be
51 given to those who, for not less than three years, have been certified or
52 registered interpreters involved in the delivery of interpreting services
53 for deaf, deafblind or hard of hearing persons.

54 (d) The director shall initially appoint two interpreter professionals
55 and two consumer board members for a term of three years and the
56 other two consumer board members for a term of two years. Following
57 the initial terms, the executive director shall appoint six of the nine
58 board members for terms of two years on a staggered basis.

59 (e) Board members shall elect a chairperson and other officers as they
60 see fit at the first meeting of the board, which shall be held not later than
61 November 1, 2025.

62 (f) Administrative support shall be provided to the board by the
63 Bureau of Services for Persons Who are Deaf, Deafblind or Hard of
64 Hearing. Members of the board shall be reimbursed for reasonable
65 travel expenses in the course of their work for the board. The
66 Department of Aging and Disability Services and the Attorney General
67 shall provide legal services, including guidance and liability coverage.

68 (g) Interpreters and applicants for an interpreter registration card
69 holding different certificates or credentials from recognized national
70 and state interpreter credentialing organizations may apply to the
71 Interpreting Standards Board for an approved acceptable credential
72 equivalent or substitute or a waiver of up to three years in duration
73 starting on the date that such waiver may be granted. Upon review of
74 the application for a credential equivalent, the Interpreting Standards

75 Board may grant such request and determine within which settings the
76 applicant is qualified to work.

77 (h) Upon receiving a complaint concerning violation of state law
78 regarding interpreter services, the Interpreting Standards Board shall
79 review the complaint and, if it deems necessary, schedule a hearing in
80 accordance with chapter 54 of the general statutes. The board shall
81 provide a written notice to the person or entity accused of violating such
82 law not later than thirty days prior to the hearing. The board may
83 recommend to the Commissioner of Aging and Disability Services
84 sanctions against the person or entity accused of violating such law. If
85 the board determines an interpreter has violated the interpreter code of
86 professional conduct of a national or state professional interpreter
87 certifying body, the board may file a report with such body and the
88 person or entity for whom the interpreter was providing interpreting
89 services at the time of the alleged violation.

90 (i) The board may hold a hearing in executive session to review a
91 complaint but shall hold any vote in open session concerning a decision
92 or sanction recommendation.

93 (j) The Commissioner of Aging and Disability Services shall adopt
94 regulations, in accordance with chapter 54 of the general statutes, to
95 implement the provisions of this section.

96 Sec. 2. Subsections (b) and (c) of section 17a-838 of the general statutes
97 are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
98 *October 1, 2025*):

99 (b) Except as provided in subsections (g) and (h) of this section, all
100 persons providing interpreting services shall register, annually, with the
101 Department of Aging and Disability Services. Such registration shall be
102 on a form prescribed or furnished by the Commissioner of Aging and
103 Disability Services and shall include the registrant's name, residential or
104 business address, or both, contact information, including, but not
105 limited to, phone number, place of employment as interpreter and

106 interpreter certification or credentials. The Interpreting Standards Board
107 within the department shall, on and after October 1, 2025, (1) issue
108 interpreter identification cards for those who register in accordance with
109 this section, and (2) maintain a current listing on [its] the department's
110 Internet web site of such registered interpreters, categorized by
111 interpreter settings for which they are qualified. The [department]
112 board may also require documentation of the registrant's training hours.
113 The [department] board shall annually issue interpreter identification
114 cards listing the type of settings in which the registrant is qualified to
115 interpret and may, in accordance with section 1 of this act, issue to
116 qualified candidates an approved acceptable credential equivalent or a
117 waiver of up to three years in duration from the requirements of this
118 section starting on the date that such waiver may be granted. The
119 department shall establish an Internet web page containing information
120 about services for deaf, deafblind and hard of hearing individuals. The
121 department's Internet web page shall include, but not be limited to,
122 information related to such services provided by the department and
123 the Departments of Social Services, Mental Health and Addiction
124 Services and Children and Families.

125 (c) Except as provided in subsections (b), (g) and (h) of this section,
126 no person shall provide interpreting services in the state, including in a
127 community setting, unless such person is registered with the
128 Department of Aging and Disability Services according to the
129 provisions of this section, holds recognized national or state interpreter
130 credentials determined by the department to be acceptable for
131 interpreting purposes where appropriate in Connecticut and has met at
132 least one of the following qualifications:

133 (1) (A) Has passed the National Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf
134 written generalist test or the National Association of the Deaf-National
135 Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf certification knowledge
136 examination, (B) holds a level three certification provided by the
137 National Association of the Deaf, and (C) (i) documents the achievement
138 of two continuing education units per year for a maximum of five years

139 of training approved by the Commissioner of Aging and Disability
140 Services, and (ii) on or before the fifth anniversary of having passed the
141 National Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf written generalist test or
142 the National Association of the Deaf-National Registry of Interpreters
143 for the Deaf certification knowledge examination, has passed the
144 National Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf performance examination
145 or the National Association of the Deaf-National Registry of Interpreters
146 for the Deaf national interpreter certification examination;

147 (2) (A) Has passed the National Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf
148 written generalist test or the National Association of the Deaf-National
149 Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf certification knowledge
150 examination, (B) is a graduate of an accredited interpreter training
151 program and documents the achievement of two continuing education
152 units per year for a maximum of five years of training approved by the
153 commissioner, and (C) on or before the fifth anniversary of having
154 passed the National Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf written
155 generalist test or the National Association of the Deaf-National Registry
156 of Interpreters for the Deaf certification knowledge examination, has
157 passed the National Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf performance
158 examination or the National Association of the Deaf-National Registry
159 of Interpreters for the Deaf national interpreter certification
160 examination;

161 (3) Holds a level four or higher certification from the National
162 Association of the Deaf;

163 (4) Holds certification by the National Registry of Interpreters for the
164 Deaf;

165 (5) For situations requiring an oral interpreter only, holds oral
166 certification from the National Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf;

167 (6) For situations requiring a cued speech transliterator only, holds
168 certification from the National Training, Evaluation and Certification
169 Unit and has passed the National Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf

170 written generalist test;

171 (7) Holds a reverse skills certificate or is a certified deaf interpreter
172 under the National Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf;

173 (8) Holds a National Association of the Deaf-National Registry of
174 Interpreters for the Deaf national interpreting certificate; or

175 (9) Holds the credential of Approved Deaf Interpreter, Approved
176 American Sign Language-English Interpreter, or Approved Sign
177 Language Transliterator by the Massachusetts Commission on the Deaf
178 and Hard of Hearing.

179 Sec. 3. Subsection (h) of section 17a-838 of the general statutes is
180 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
181 *1, 2025*):

182 (h) The following individuals shall be exempt from the registration
183 requirements of this section:

184 (1) An individual interpreting at (A) a worship service conducted by
185 a religious entity, or (B) services for educational purposes conducted by
186 a religious entity or religiously affiliated school;

187 (2) An individual engaged in interpreting during an emergency
188 situation, when obtaining a registered interpreter or registered
189 transliterator could cause a delay that may lead to injury or loss to the
190 individual requiring the interpreting services, provided such
191 emergency assistance does not waive any communication access
192 requirements for any entity pursuant to the federal Americans with
193 Disabilities Act or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as both
194 may be amended from time to time;

195 (3) An individual engaged in interpreting as part of a supervised
196 internship or practicum in an interpreting program at an accredited
197 college or university or an interpreting mentorship program approved
198 by the department if (A) such interpreting is not in a legal, medical or

199 educational setting, or (B) the individual is accompanied by an
200 interpreter registered pursuant to this section; [or]

201 (4) An interpreter who is certified by a recognized national
202 professional certifying body such as the National Registry of
203 Interpreters for the Deaf or the National Association of the Deaf or a
204 recognized state professional certifying body from outside the state and
205 provides interpreting services in the state for a period of time not
206 exceeding fourteen days during a calendar year; and

207 (5) An interpreter who has received an acceptable credential
208 equivalent or a waiver from the requirements of this section from the
209 Interpreting Standards Board in accordance with subsection (b) of this
210 section.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	17a-838(b) and (c)
Sec. 3	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	17a-838(h)

Statement of Purpose:

To establish a state board to set standards for interpreting services for persons who are deaf, deafblind or hard of hearing.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]