

1

H.86

2 An act relating to Vermont's adoption of the Audiology and Speech-  
3 Language Pathology Interstate Compact

4 The Senate proposes to the House to amend the bill by adding a new Sec. 7

5 to read as follows:

6 Sec. 7. 1 V.S.A. chapter 5, subchapter 5 is amended to read:

7 Subchapter 5. Interpreters for Judicial, Administrative, and Legislative

8 Findings

9 § 331. DEFINITIONS

10 As used in the subchapter:

11 (1) "Person who is ~~deaf or hard of hearing~~ Deaf, Hard of Hearing, or  
12 DeafBlind" means any person who has ~~such~~ difficulty hearing, even with  
13 amplification, to the extent that ~~he or she~~ the person cannot rely on hearing for  
14 communication.

15 (2) "Proceeding" means any judicial proceeding, contested case under  
16 3 V.S.A. chapter 25, or other hearing before an administrative agency not  
17 included under 3 V.S.A. chapter 25.

18 (3) "Qualified interpreter" means an interpreter for a person who is ~~deaf~~  
19 ~~or hard of hearing~~ Deaf, Hard of Hearing, or DeafBlind who meets standards  
20 of competency established by the national or Vermont Registry of Interpreters

1 for the Deaf as amended, by rule, by the Vermont Commission of the Deaf and  
2 ~~Hard of Hearing~~.

3 § 332. RIGHT TO INTERPRETER; COMMUNICATION ACCESS

4 REALTIME TRANSLATION (CART) SERVICES; ASSISTIVE

5 LISTENING EQUIPMENT

6 (a) Any person who is ~~deaf or hard of hearing~~ Deaf, Hard of Hearing, or  
7 DeafBlind who is a party or witness in any proceeding shall be entitled to be  
8 provided with a qualified interpreter or CART services for the duration of the  
9 person's participation in the proceeding.

10 (b) Any person who is ~~deaf or hard of hearing~~ Deaf, Hard of Hearing, or  
11 DeafBlind shall be entitled to be provided with a qualified interpreter or CART  
12 services upon five working days' notice that the person has reasonable need to  
13 do any of the following:

14 \* \* \*

15 (c) If a person who is ~~deaf or hard of hearing~~ Deaf, Hard of Hearing, or  
16 DeafBlind is unable to use or understand sign language, the presiding officer or  
17 State board or agency or State legislative official shall, upon five working  
18 days' notice, make available appropriate assistive listening equipment for use  
19 during the proceeding or activity.

1 § 333. APPOINTMENT OF INTERPRETER

2 (a) The presiding officer in a proceeding shall appoint an interpreter after  
3 making a preliminary determination that the interpreter is able to:

4 (1) readily communicate with the person who is ~~deaf or hard of hearing,~~  
5 ~~to~~ Deaf, Hard of Hearing, or DeafBlind;

6 (2) accurately interpret statements or communications from the person  
7 who is ~~deaf or hard of hearing,~~ Deaf, Hard of Hearing, or DeafBlind; and ~~to~~

8 (3) interpret the proceedings to the person who is ~~deaf or hard of hearing~~  
9 Deaf, Hard of Hearing, or DeafBlind.

10 \* \* \*

11 § 336. RULES; INFORMATION; ~~LIST OF INTERPRETERS~~ CONTRACT  
12 SERVICES

13 (a) ~~The Vermont Commission of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing shall, by~~  
14 ~~rule, establish factors to be considered by the presiding officer under section~~  
15 ~~333 of this title before appointing an interpreter who is not a qualified~~  
16 ~~interpreter. Such factors shall encourage the widest availability of interpreters~~  
17 ~~in Vermont while at the same time ensuring~~ State of Vermont shall maintain  
18 contracts to operate CART services and a statewide sign language interpreter  
19 referral service to provide services to a person who has a right to an interpreter  
20 or CART services under section 332 of this subchapter. The contract shall

1 require that the an interpreter providing services through the sign language  
2 interpreter referral service:

3 (1) is able to communicate readily with the person who is ~~deaf or hard~~  
4 ~~of hearing~~ Deaf, Hard of Hearing, or DeafBlind;

5 (2) is able to interpret accurately statements or communications by the  
6 person who is ~~deaf or hard of hearing~~ Deaf, Hard of Hearing, or DeafBlind;

7 (3) is able to interpret the proceedings to the person who is ~~deaf or hard~~  
8 ~~of hearing~~ Deaf, Hard of Hearing, or DeafBlind;

9 (4) ~~shall~~ maintain confidentiality;

10 (5) ~~shall~~ be impartial with respect to the outcome of the proceeding;

11 (6) ~~shall~~ does not exert any influence over the person who is ~~deaf or~~  
12 ~~hard of hearing~~ Deaf, Hard of Hearing, or DeafBlind; and

13 (7) ~~shall~~ does not accept assignments the interpreter does not feel  
14 competent to handle.

15 (b) ~~Rules established by the Vermont Commission of the Deaf and Hard of~~  
16 ~~Hearing pursuant to subdivision 331(3) of this title amending the standards of~~  
17 ~~competency established by the national or Vermont Registry of the Deaf shall~~  
18 ~~be limited to the factors set forth in subsection (a) of this section. [Repealed.]~~

19 (c) ~~The Vermont Commission of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing shall~~  
20 ~~prepare an explanation of the provisions of this subchapter which shall be~~  
21 ~~distributed to all State agencies and courts. [Repealed.]~~



1           (2) ~~The~~ the admission or confession, if made during a custodial  
2           interrogation, was made after reasonable steps were taken, including the  
3           appointment of a qualified interpreter, to ensure that the defendant understood  
4           ~~his or her~~ the defendant's constitutional rights.

5           (b) The provisions of subsection (a) of this section supplement the  
6           constitutional rights of the person who is ~~deaf or hard of hearing~~ Deaf, Hard of  
7           Hearing, or DeafBlind.

8           § 339. COMMUNICATIONS MADE TO INTERPRETERS; PROHIBITION  
9           ON DISCLOSURE

10          (a) An interpreter, whether or not the interpreter is a qualified interpreter,  
11          shall not disclose or testify to:

12               (1) a communication made by a person to an interpreter acting in ~~his or~~  
13               ~~her~~ the capacity as of an interpreter for a person who is ~~deaf or hard of hearing~~  
14               Deaf, Hard of Hearing, or DeafBlind or a person with limited English  
15               proficiency; or

16               (2) any information obtained by the interpreter while acting in ~~his or her~~  
17               the capacity as of an interpreter for a person who is ~~deaf or hard of hearing~~  
18               Deaf, Hard of Hearing, or DeafBlind or a person with limited English  
19               proficiency.

20          (b) There is no prohibition on disclosure under this section if the services  
21          of the interpreter were sought or obtained to enable or aid anyone to commit or

1 plan to commit what the person who is ~~deaf or hard of hearing~~ Deaf, Hard of  
2 Hearing, or DeafBlind or the person with limited English proficiency knew or  
3 reasonably should have known to be a crime or fraud.

4 \* \* \*

5 (d) As used in this section, “person with limited English proficiency”  
6 means a person who does not speak English as ~~his or her~~ the person’s primary  
7 language and who has a limited ability to read, write, speak, or understand  
8 English.

9 And by renumbering the remaining section to be numerically correct.