

House Bill 2944

Sponsored by Representative BYNUM (Pre-session filed.)

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Requires Legislative Assembly to provide translator and interpreter services free of charge in order to facilitate witness participation in hearings or informal meetings with one or more members of Legislative Assembly, as required by federal Americans with Disabilities Act, or in conjunction with constituent outreach services. Requires that verbal or written request be made to Legislative Administrator by specified date before translator and interpreter services will be provided. Requires Legislative Administrator, upon request of member of Legislative Assembly, to provide translator or interpreter services for specified types of written material.

Appropriates moneys to Legislative Administration Committee to fund translator and interpreter services.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1 Relating to language services for legislative proceedings.

2 Whereas the ability to deliver quality legislative services is closely connected to the ability to
3 communicate and effect change on behalf of all Oregonians; and

4 Whereas because the population of refugees and immigrants is growing in Oregon, the Legisla-
5 tive Assembly recognizes that steps must be taken to enhance communication with individuals and
6 families whose primary language is not English; and

7 Whereas the utilization of professional, culturally competent translators and interpreters will
8 improve the delivery of social services, will improve outreach efforts, will build community trust,
9 will decrease the burden of relying on untrained staff or family members to be interpreters and will
10 avoid inadequate or erroneous service delivery; now, therefore,

11 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

12 **SECTION 1. (1) The Legislative Assembly shall provide the translator and interpreter**
13 **services described in subsections (2) and (4) of this section to interested members of the**
14 **public that request those services.**

15 **(2) Translator and interpreter services that are provided under this section shall include:**

16 **(a) Language translation and interpretation to facilitate witness testimony in legislative**
17 **committee or subcommittee hearings;**

18 **(b) Language translation and interpretation to facilitate dialogue in informal meetings**
19 **with one or more legislators;**

20 **(c) Sign language or other translator and interpreter services to comply with the federal**
21 **Americans with Disabilities Act, 42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.; or**

22 **(d) Language translation and interpretation to initiate and enhance effectiveness in con-**
23 **stituent outreach activities.**

24 **(3) A member of the public or a member of the Legislative Assembly seeking to have**
25 **translation and interpretation services provided shall make a written or verbal request to**
26 **the Legislative Administrator:**
27

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 (a) In interim periods when the Legislative Assembly is not in session, at least three
2 business days before the scheduled time of the hearing or other meeting at which translator
3 and interpreter services are to be provided or the constituent outreach activities are to take
4 place;

5 (b) During a legislative session, at least one business day before the scheduled time of
6 the hearing or other meeting at which translator and interpreter services are to be provided
7 or the constituent outreach activities are to take place; and

8 (c) Notwithstanding paragraphs (a) and (b) of this subsection, if the translator and in-
9 terpreter services consist of sign language or other translator and interpreter services
10 needed to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act, at least three business days be-
11 fore the scheduled time of the hearing or other meeting at which translator and interpreter
12 services are to be provided.

13 (4) In addition to the translator and interpreter services described in subsection (2) of
14 this section, upon the request of a member of the Legislative Assembly, the Legislative Ad-
15 ministrator shall cause public service posters, flyers, letters, brochures and other publicity
16 materials describing public services, or official communications from agencies, to be trans-
17 lated to languages accessible to communities within the member's district.

18 (5) A translator or interpreter performing services under this section is expected to be
19 true to the original message being translated and shall strive to phrase the materials being
20 translated or interpreted in a way that is accessible to the community being served.

21 (6) The Legislative Administrator shall provide the translator and interpreter services
22 described in this section free of charge.

23 **SECTION 2.** In addition to and not in lieu of any other appropriation, there is appropri-
24 ated to the Legislative Administration Committee, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2021,
25 out of the General Fund, the amount of \$_____, which may be expended for the purpose of
26 providing the translator and interpreter services described in section 1 of this 2021 Act.
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