

SB 950 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Rep. Walters

House Committee On Commerce and Consumer Protection

Action Date: 05/13/25

Action: Do Pass the A-Eng bill.

Vote: 7-0-2-0

Yeas: 7 - Cate, Chaichi, Chotzen, Gomberg, Osborne, Sosa, Walters

Exc: 2 - Reschke, Wallan

Fiscal: Has minimal fiscal impact

Revenue: No revenue impact

Prepared By: Andrew Hendrie, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 5/6, 5/13

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure specifies requirements for sign language interpreters from other states to practice in Oregon, adds provisions for an interpreter-in-training license, repeals provisions for specialty licenses, and modifies renewal requirements. It takes effect on the 91st day following adjournment sine die.

Detailed Summary:

Permits an interpreter licensed to provide sign language interpretation in another state to provide sign language interpretation without obtaining a license from the State Board of Sign Language (Board) if their license is from a state that the Board recognizes and if they can show that they are in good standing if asked.

Sets requirements for a sign language interpreter-in-training license. Allows licensee to provide signed language interpretation only under the direct, in-person supervision of a licensed supervisory or licensed sign language interpreter.

Repeals existing specialty licenses for legal and medical sign language interpretation on January 1, 2029. Modifies licensing and renewal processes. Extends licensing renewals from two years to three years. Directs the Board to set licensure and renewal fees.

Becomes operative January 1, 2026. Permits the Health Licensing Office (HLO) and the Board to take actions prior to the operative date to make operative the measure. Takes effect on the 91st day following adjournment sine die.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- The rights of students

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

House Bill 2696 (2023) established the Oregon Board of Sign Language Interpreters (Board) under the Health Licensing Office (HLO). The Board regulates supervisory, generalist, provisional, medical, legal, and educational sign language interpreters. HB 2696 also required all individuals who perform sign language interpretation services to obtain licensure by January 1, 2024. HLO issues temporary licenses to sign language interpreters, and it is the responsibility of the Board to adopt rules and set permanent licensing requirements.

Senate Bill 950 A specifies requirements for sign language interpreters from other states to practice in Oregon, repeals provisions for specialty licenses, and modifies renewal requirements.