

## 1 VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY — CHAPTER

2 *An Act to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Article 5 of Chapter 13 of Title 8.01 a section*  
3 *numbered 8.01-384.1:1, relating to courtroom interpreters.*

4 [H 1467]

5 Approved

6 **Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**

7 **1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding in Article 5 of Chapter 13 of Title 8.01 a**  
8 **section numbered 8.01-384.1:1 as follows:**

9 *§ 8.01-384.1:1. Interpreters for non-English-speaking persons in civil cases.*

10 *A. In any trial, hearing or other proceeding before a judge in a civil case in which a*  
11 *non-English-speaking person is a party or witness, an interpreter for the non-English-speaking person*  
12 *may be appointed by the court. A qualified English-speaking person fluent in the language of the*  
13 *non-English-speaking person may be appointed by the judge of the court in which the case is to be*  
14 *heard unless the non-English-speaking person shall obtain a qualified interpreter of his own choosing*  
15 *who is approved by the court as being competent.*

16 *B. To the extent of available appropriations, the compensation of such interpreter shall be fixed by*  
17 *the court and shall be paid from the general fund of the state treasury as part of the expense of trial.*  
18 *The amount allowed by the court to the interpreter may, in the discretion of the court, be assessed*  
19 *against either party as a part of the cost of the case and, if collected, the same shall be paid to the*  
20 *Commonwealth.*

21 *C. Whenever a person communicates through an interpreter to any person under such circumstances*  
22 *that the communications would be privileged, and such persons could not be compelled to testify as to*  
23 *the communications, this privilege shall also apply to the interpreter. The provisions of this section shall*  
24 *apply in circuit, family and district courts.*

ENROLLED

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