

LD0291164

HOUSE BILL NO. 2110**AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE**

(Proposed by the House Committee for Courts of Justice
on February 5, 1995)

(Patron Prior to Substitute—Delegate Copeland)

A BILL to amend and reenact § 63.1-85.4:1 of the Code of Virginia, relating to qualified interpreters for hearing-impaired persons.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That § 63.1-85.4:1 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 63.1-85.4:1. Statewide interpreter service; qualified interpreters.

The Department is authorized to establish, maintain and coordinate a statewide service to provide courts, state and local legislative bodies and agencies, both public and private, and hearing-impaired persons who request the same with qualified interpreters for the hearing impaired out of such funds as may be appropriated to the Department for these purposes.

Those courts and state and local agencies which have funds designated to employ qualified interpreters shall pay for the actual cost of such interpreter. The Department is further authorized to establish and maintain lists of qualified interpreters for the hearing impaired to be available to the courts, state and local legislative bodies and agencies, both public and private, and to hearing-impaired persons.

The Department is authorized to charge a reasonable fee for the administration of quality assurance screening of interpreters. Such fees shall be applied to the costs of administering the statewide interpreter service.

For purposes of this section, a qualified interpreter shall be one who holds at least one of the following credentials:

1. Certification from any national organization whose certification process has been recognized by the Department for the Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing; or

2. A current screening level awarded by the Virginia Quality Assurance Screening Program of the Department for the Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing; or

3. A screening level or recognized evaluation from any other state when (i) the credentials meet the minimum requirements of Virginia Quality Assurance Screening and (ii) the credentials are valid and current in the state issued; or

4. Certification from the National Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf at any time in the past, regardless of whether such certification has expired, provided that the individual has served as an interpreter in a Virginia court for a minimum of five years since July 1, 1985, and entry into a contract with the Department for the Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing which requires the interpreter to abide by the code of ethics of the National Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf.

2. That the provisions of this act shall expire on July 1, 1996.

HOUSE SUBSTITUTE

HB2110H1