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SENATE BILL NO. 179—COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND LABOR

(ON BEHALF OF THE LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE ON SENIOR  
CITIZENS, VETERANS AND ADULTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS)

MARCH 8, 2021

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Referred to Committee on Commerce and Labor

SUMMARY—Revises provisions relating to sign language interpreting and realtime captioning. (BDR 54-386)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No.  
Effect on the State: Yes.

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EXPLANATION – Matter in *bolded italics* is new; matter between brackets [omitted material] is material to be omitted.

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AN ACT relating to interpreters; revising the activities for which registration as an interpreter or realtime captioning provider is required; revising the requirements and professional classifications for registration as an interpreter or realtime captioning provider; providing for the establishment of qualifications to serve as a professional mentor and additional professional classifications in the field of interpreting; revising certain terminology related to interpreting; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

**Legislative Counsel’s Digest:**

1 Existing law provides for the regulation of the practice of interpreting and the  
2 practice of realtime captioning by the Aging and Disability Services Division of the  
3 Department of Health and Human Services. (Chapter 656A of NRS) Existing law  
4 defines the term “practice of interpreting” to mean translating spoken language into  
5 certain visual or tactile representations of spoken language and vice versa. (NRS  
6 656A.060) **Section 6** of this bill: (1) changes the term “practice of interpreting” to  
7 “practice of sign language interpreting” and (2) amends the definition to mean  
8 interpreting or translating between any spoken language and certain visual or tactile  
9 representations of spoken language. **Section 7** of this bill removes an exemption  
10 from provisions of existing law governing the practice of sign language interpreting  
11 and the practice of realtime captioning for persons who engage in the practice of  
12 sign language interpreting or the practice of realtime captioning solely for meetings  
13 of nonprofit civic organizations, thereby requiring, under certain circumstances,



14 such persons to register with the Division to engage in the practice of sign language  
15 interpreting or the practice of realtime captioning, as applicable. (NRS 656A.070)

16 Existing law establishes requirements for an applicant for registration to engage  
17 in the practice of interpreting in: (1) a community setting as an apprentice level  
18 interpreter, a skilled interpreter or an advanced certified interpreter; and (2) an  
19 educational setting as an apprentice level, intermediate or advanced interpreter.  
20 (NRS 656A.100) **Section 9** of this bill eliminates the apprentice, intermediate,  
21 skilled and advanced levels of interpreter and instead establishes qualifications for  
22 registration or provisional registration as an interpreter. **Section 9** also: (1) requires  
23 an applicant for provisional registration to submit proof of ongoing participation in  
24 a program of professional development for interpreters and engagement with a  
25 professional mentor; and (2) prohibits provisional registration in a professional  
26 classification for longer than 3 years in total. **Section 9** additionally eliminates a  
27 supplemental registration to practice in a legal or medical setting. **Section 18** of this  
28 bill provides that an interpreter who is registered to engage in the practice of  
29 interpreting on July 1, 2021, but who does not meet the requirements for such a  
30 registration, as amended by **section 9**, must be issued a provisional registration that  
31 expires on July 1, 2024. **Sections 5 and 8** of this bill make conforming changes to  
32 reflect that interpreters may be either registered or provisionally registered.

33 **Sections 1, 3, 4, 9 and 14-17** of this bill make revisions so that an interpreter  
34 must register to practice as an interpreter in: (1) a primary or secondary educational  
35 setting if the person wishes to facilitate communication relating to educational  
36 programming provided through grade 12; and (2) a community setting if the person  
37 wishes to facilitate communication in any other setting, including a postsecondary  
38 educational setting, a legal setting or a medical setting. **Section 10** of this bill: (1)  
39 requires the Division to adopt regulations prescribing qualifications for professional  
40 mentors; and (2) authorizes the Division to establish additional professional  
41 classifications of the practice of sign language interpreting.

42 **Sections 9-12** of this bill replace the term “certification” with the term  
43 “credentialing” in provisions governing the qualifications of sign language  
44 interpreters and realtime captioning providers.

45 Existing law prohibits a person from holding himself or herself out as certified  
46 to engage in the practice of interpreting or the practice of realtime captioning unless  
47 he or she is registered with the Division. (NRS 656A.800) **Section 13** of this bill  
48 removes the term “certified” and instead prohibits a person from holding himself or  
49 herself out as registered or provisionally registered to engage in the practice of sign  
50 language interpreting or registered to engage in the practice of realtime captioning  
51 unless he or she is registered or provisionally registered, as applicable, with the  
52 Division. **Section 20** of this bill removes a definition of a term that is no longer  
53 used in the relevant portion of the Nevada Revised Statutes. **Section 2** of this bill  
54 makes a conforming change to indicate the proper placement in the Nevada  
55 Revised Statutes of a new definition added by **section 1**.

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THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN  
SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

1 **Section 1.** Chapter 656A of NRS is hereby amended by  
2 adding thereto a new section to read as follows:

3 *“Postsecondary educational setting” means communication*  
4 *relating to participation by students in curricular or*  
5 *extracurricular programming provided by or through:*



1 *1. A university, college or community college within the*  
2 *Nevada System of Higher Education; or*

3 *2. A postsecondary educational institution, as defined in*  
4 *NRS 394.099.*

5 **Sec. 2.** NRS 656A.020 is hereby amended to read as follows:  
6 656A.020 As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise  
7 requires, the words and terms defined in NRS 656A.023 to  
8 656A.065, inclusive, *and section 1 of this act* have the meanings  
9 ascribed to them in those sections.

10 **Sec. 3.** NRS 656A.027 is hereby amended to read as follows:  
11 656A.027 “Community setting” means any setting that is not  
12 ~~an~~ *a primary or secondary* educational setting. The term includes,  
13 without limitation, *a postsecondary educational setting*, a legal  
14 setting and a medical setting.

15 **Sec. 4.** NRS 656A.029 is hereby amended to read as follows:  
16 656A.029 ~~“Educational”~~ *“Primary or secondary educational*  
17 *setting”* means ~~an~~ *communication relating to participation by*  
18 *pupils in educational programming provided by or through a*  
19 *public school, school district or private school* ~~for charter school~~ in  
20 this State.

21 **Sec. 5.** NRS 656A.030 is hereby amended to read as follows:  
22 656A.030 “Interpreter” means a person who is registered *or*  
23 *provisionally registered* with the Division to engage in the practice  
24 of interpreting in this State pursuant to NRS 656A.100.

25 **Sec. 6.** NRS 656A.060 is hereby amended to read as follows:  
26 656A.060 “Practice of *sign language* interpreting” means the  
27 facilitation of communication between persons who are deaf or  
28 whose hearing is impaired and other persons. The term includes,  
29 without limitation:

30 1. ~~Translating~~ *Interpreting or translating between any*  
31 *spoken language* ~~into~~ *and* American Sign Language or any other  
32 visual-gestural system of communication ; ~~for vice-versa;~~

33 2. ~~Translating~~ *Interpreting or translating between any*  
34 *spoken language* ~~into~~ *and* a tactile method of sign language ; ~~for~~  
35 ~~vice-versa;~~

36 3. ~~Translating~~ *Interpreting or translating between any*  
37 *spoken language* ~~into~~ *and* an oral interpretation of the speaker’s  
38 words by enunciating, repeating or rephrasing those words without  
39 using the voice to assist a person who is deaf or whose hearing is  
40 impaired in lipreading the information conveyed by the speaker;

41 4. ~~Translating~~ *Interpreting or translating between any*  
42 *spoken language* ~~into~~ *and* a visual representation of spoken  
43 language that:



1 (a) Uses eight hand shapes to represent groups of consonants  
2 and the placement of those hand shapes in four positions around the  
3 face to indicate groups of vowel sounds; and

4 (b) Is used in conjunction with lipreading;  
5 5. ~~Translating~~ *Interpreting or translating between any*  
6 spoken ~~English into~~ *language and* a system of sign language that  
7 is based on the syntax of the English language ; ~~for vice versa;~~ and

8 6. The use of any of the methods of interpreting or  
9 ~~transliterating~~ *translating* set forth in subsections 1 to 5, inclusive,  
10 by a person who is deaf or whose hearing is impaired to facilitate  
11 communication between another person who is deaf or whose  
12 hearing is impaired and an interpreter, or between two or more  
13 persons who are deaf or whose hearing is impaired.

14 **Sec. 7.** NRS 656A.070 is hereby amended to read as follows:

15 656A.070 The provisions of this chapter do not apply to a  
16 person who:

17 1. Is licensed in another state to engage in the practice of *sign*  
18 *language* interpreting or the practice of realtime captioning and who  
19 engages in the practice of *sign language* interpreting or the practice  
20 of realtime captioning, respectively, in this State:

21 (a) For a period of not more than 30 nonconsecutive days in a  
22 calendar year; or

23 (b) By teleconference if the interpreting services or realtime  
24 captioning services provided by that person are necessary because  
25 an interpreter or realtime captioning provider is unavailable to  
26 provide those services in person or by teleconference;

27 2. Engages in the practice of *sign language* interpreting or the  
28 practice of realtime captioning solely for meetings of ~~nonprofit~~  
29 ~~civic or~~ religious organizations;

30 3. Engages in the practice of *sign language* interpreting or the  
31 practice of realtime captioning as necessary for the provision of an  
32 emergency medical or governmental service to a person who is deaf  
33 or whose hearing is impaired; or

34 4. Engages occasionally in the practice of *sign language*  
35 interpreting in a social situation that does not require a qualified  
36 interpreter pursuant to the provisions of the Americans with  
37 Disabilities Act of 1990, 42 U.S.C. §§ 12101 et seq., section 504 of  
38 the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 U.S.C. § 794, or the regulations  
39 adopted pursuant to those provisions.

40 **Sec. 8.** NRS 656A.080 is hereby amended to read as follows:

41 656A.080 The Division shall:

42 1. Establish a registry of persons who are registered *or*  
43 *provisionally registered* with the Division to engage in the practice  
44 of interpreting or the practice of realtime captioning. The registry  
45 must include, without limitation:



1 (a) The name of the person and any other information prescribed  
2 by the Division; and

3 (b) If the person is registered *or provisionally registered* to  
4 engage in the practice of interpreting, each professional  
5 classification in which the person is registered *or provisionally*  
6 *registered* to practice;

7 2. Make the registry available on an Internet website  
8 maintained by the Division; and

9 3. Provide a copy of the registry without charge to any person  
10 upon request.

11 **Sec. 9.** NRS 656A.100 is hereby amended to read as follows:

12 656A.100 1. A person who wishes to *register or*  
13 *provisionally register to* engage in the practice of *sign language*  
14 interpreting in this State must submit to the Division:

15 (a) Proof that the applicant is at least 18 years of age;

16 (b) An application in the form prescribed by the Division;

17 (c) Proof that the applicant has complied with the requirements  
18 for education, training, experience and ~~{certification}~~ *credentialing*  
19 required for each professional classification of the practice of *sign*  
20 *language* interpreting pursuant to this section or prescribed by a  
21 regulation of the Division pursuant to NRS 656A.110;

22 (d) If the applicant wishes to *register to* practice *sign language*  
23 interpreting in a community setting ~~{as an apprentice level~~  
24 ~~interpreter.}~~, proof ~~{:~~

25 ~~—— (1) That the applicant possesses intermediate interpreting~~  
26 ~~skills;~~

27 ~~—— (2) Of current participation in a program of mentoring or an~~  
28 ~~agreement to participate in a program of mentoring with an~~  
29 ~~interpreter in a community setting other than an apprentice level~~  
30 ~~interpreter; and~~

31 ~~—— (3) Of ongoing participation in a training program for the~~  
32 ~~professional development of interpreters;}~~ *that the applicant holds,*  
33 *in good standing, a nationally recognized sign language*  
34 *interpreter or transliterator certification approved by the Division;*

35 (e) If the applicant wishes to *provisionally register to* practice  
36 *sign language* interpreting in a community setting , ~~{as a skilled~~  
37 ~~interpreter.}~~ proof:

38 (1) That the applicant ~~{is certified as an interpreter by a~~  
39 ~~nationally recognized public or private organization which is~~  
40 ~~approved by the Division or}~~ possesses the skills necessary to  
41 practice interpreting at ~~{a skilled}~~ *an intermediate* level ; ~~{in a~~  
42 ~~community setting;}~~ and

43 (2) Of ongoing participation in a ~~{training}~~ program for the  
44 professional development of interpreters ~~{;~~



1 ~~—(f) If the applicant wishes to practice interpreting in a~~  
2 ~~community setting as an advanced certified interpreter, proof:~~

3 ~~——(1) That the applicant is certified as an interpreter at an~~  
4 ~~advanced level by a nationally recognized public or private~~  
5 ~~organization which is approved by the Division or possesses the~~  
6 ~~skills necessary to practice interpreting at an advanced level in a~~  
7 ~~community setting; and~~

8 ~~——(2) Of ongoing participation in a training program for the~~  
9 ~~professional development of interpreters;~~

10 ~~—(g)} and engagement with a professional mentor;~~

11 (f) If the applicant wishes to *register to* practice *sign language*  
12 interpreting in ~~[an] a primary or secondary~~ educational setting , ~~[as~~  
13 ~~an apprentice level interpreter.]~~ proof:

14 (1) That the applicant has ~~[completed]~~ :

15 (I) *Completed* the Educational Interpreter Performance  
16 Assessment ~~[administered by a public or private organization which~~  
17 ~~is] or holds another credential for interpreters in a primary or~~  
18 ~~secondary educational setting that is~~ approved by the Division ;  
19 and ~~[received]~~

20 (II) *Received* a rating of his or her level of proficiency in  
21 providing interpreting services at least at level ~~[3.0:] 4.0 or its~~  
22 ~~equivalent; and~~

23 (2) Of ~~[current] ongoing~~ participation in a program ~~[of~~  
24 ~~mentoring or an agreement to participate in a program of mentoring~~  
25 ~~with an interpreter in an educational setting other than an apprentice~~  
26 ~~level interpreter; and~~

27 ~~——(3) Of an individualized plan] for the~~ professional  
28 development ~~[as an interpreter which includes, without limitation,~~  
29 ~~specific goals for the applicant's professional development as an~~  
30 ~~interpreter;~~

31 ~~—(h)} of interpreters;~~

32 (g) If the applicant wishes to *provisionally register to* practice  
33 *sign language* interpreting in ~~[an] a primary or secondary~~  
34 educational setting , ~~[as an intermediate interpreter.]~~ proof:

35 (1) That the applicant has ~~[completed]~~ :

36 (I) *Completed* the Educational Interpreter Performance  
37 Assessment ~~[administered by a public or private organization which~~  
38 ~~is] or holds another credential for interpreters in a primary or~~  
39 ~~secondary educational setting that is~~ approved by the Division ;  
40 and ~~[received]~~

41 (II) *Received* a rating of his or her level of proficiency in  
42 providing interpreting services at least at level ~~[3.1:] 3.5 or its~~  
43 ~~equivalent; and~~

44 (2) Of ~~[an individualized plan] ongoing participation in a~~  
45 *program* for *the* professional development ~~[as an interpreter which~~



1 ~~includes, without limitation, specific goals for the applicant's~~  
2 ~~professional development as an interpreter;~~

3 ~~—(i) If the applicant wishes to practice interpreting in an~~  
4 ~~educational setting as an advanced interpreter, proof:~~

5 ~~—(1) That the applicant has completed the Educational~~  
6 ~~Interpreter Performance Assessment administered by a public or~~  
7 ~~private organization which is approved by the Division and received~~  
8 ~~a rating of his or her level of proficiency in providing interpreting~~  
9 ~~services at least at level 4.0;~~

10 ~~—(2) That the applicant possesses at least 4 years of experience~~  
11 ~~practicing as an interpreter in a classroom; and~~

12 ~~—(3) Of an individualized plan for professional development~~  
13 ~~as an interpreter which includes, without limitation, specific goals~~  
14 ~~for the applicant's professional development as an interpreter;~~

15 ~~—(j) If the applicant wishes to obtain a supplemental registration~~  
16 ~~specifically to practice interpreting in a legal setting or medical~~  
17 ~~setting in addition to obtaining registration pursuant to paragraphs~~  
18 ~~(d) to (i), inclusive, any information or evidence as prescribed by a~~  
19 ~~regulation of the Division pursuant to NRS 656A.110; and~~

20 ~~—(k) of interpreters and engagement with a professional~~  
21 ~~mentor; and~~

22 (h) Any other information or evidence the Division may require  
23 to determine whether the applicant has complied with the  
24 requirements to engage in the practice of *sign language*  
25 interpreting.

26 2. The Division may, for good cause shown, waive any  
27 requirement set forth in subsection 1.

28 3. An applicant must identify each professional classification  
29 of the practice of *sign language* interpreting for which he or she  
30 requests registration ~~[.]~~ or *provisional registration*.

31 4. ~~[The]~~ *Except as otherwise provided in subsection 5, the*  
32 *Division shall:*

33 (a) Register *or provisionally register* each applicant who  
34 complies with the applicable provisions of this section as an  
35 interpreter described in the applicable paragraph of subsection 1;  
36 and

37 (b) Issue to the applicant proof of *registration or provisional*  
38 *registration*.

39 *5. The Division shall not issue a provisional registration for a*  
40 *professional classification of the practice of sign language*  
41 *interpreting to any person for more than a total of 3 years,*  
42 *including renewals.*

43 **Sec. 10.** NRS 656A.110 is hereby amended to read as follows:  
44 656A.110 *1.* The Division shall, by regulation:



1 ~~[(1)]~~ (a) Prescribe for each professional classification of  
2 interpreters:

3 ~~[(a)]~~ (1) The level of education and professional training,  
4 experience and ~~[certification]~~ **credentialing** required to engage in  
5 the practice of **sign language** interpreting in that classification.

6 ~~[(b)]~~ (2) The authorized scope of practice, including, without  
7 limitation, any condition, restriction or other limitation imposed on  
8 a person who practices in that classification.

9 ~~[(2.—Establish ethical)]~~

10 (3) **Ethical** standards for persons who engage in the practice  
11 of **sign language** interpreting ~~[-, including, without limitation,~~  
12 ~~standards for maintaining confidential communications between an~~  
13 ~~interpreter and a person who receives his or her services.]~~ **in that**  
14 **professional classification.**

15 (b) **Prescribe qualifications for professional mentors of**  
16 **interpreters, including, without limitation, the level of education,**  
17 **training, experience and credentialing required to provide**  
18 **mentoring.**

19 **2. The Division may adopt regulations establishing**  
20 **professional classifications of the practice of sign language**  
21 **interpreting in addition to those set forth in NRS 656A.100.**

22 **Sec. 11.** NRS 656A.400 is hereby amended to read as follows:

23 656A.400 1. A person who wishes to engage in the practice  
24 of realtime captioning in this State must submit to the Division:

25 (a) Proof that the applicant is at least 18 years of age;

26 (b) An application in the form prescribed by the Division;

27 (c) Proof that the applicant has complied with the requirements  
28 for education, training, experience and ~~[certification]~~ **credentialing**  
29 required for the practice of realtime captioning as prescribed by a  
30 regulation of the Division pursuant to NRS 656A.410; and

31 (d) Any other information or evidence the Division may require  
32 to determine whether the applicant has complied with the  
33 requirements to engage in the practice of realtime captioning.

34 2. The Division shall register each applicant who complies  
35 with the provisions of this section and issue to the applicant proof of  
36 registration.

37 **Sec. 12.** NRS 656A.410 is hereby amended to read as follows:

38 656A.410 The Division shall, by regulation:

39 1. Prescribe the level of education and professional training,  
40 experience and ~~[certification]~~ **credentialing** required to engage in  
41 the practice of realtime captioning.

42 2. Establish ethical standards for persons who engage in the  
43 practice of realtime captioning, including, without limitation,  
44 standards for maintaining confidential communications between a





1 realtime captioning provider and a person who receives his or her  
2 services.

3 **Sec. 13.** NRS 656A.800 is hereby amended to read as follows:  
4 656A.800 1. Except as otherwise provided by specific  
5 statute, it is unlawful for a person to:

6 (a) Engage in the practice of *sign language* interpreting in this  
7 State;

8 (b) Hold himself or herself out as ~~certified~~ *registered,*  
9 *provisionally registered,* or *otherwise* qualified to engage in the  
10 practice of *sign language* interpreting in this State; or

11 (c) Use in connection with his or her name any title, words,  
12 letters or other designation intended to imply or designate that the  
13 person is an interpreter,

14 ↪ unless the person is registered *or provisionally registered* with  
15 the Division pursuant to NRS 656A.100.

16 2. It is unlawful for a person to:

17 (a) Engage in the practice of realtime captioning in this State;

18 (b) Hold himself or herself out as ~~certified~~ *registered* or  
19 *otherwise* qualified to engage in the practice of realtime captioning  
20 in this State; or

21 (c) Use in connection with his or her name any title, words,  
22 letters or other designation intended to imply or designate that he or  
23 she is a realtime captioning provider,

24 ↪ unless the person is registered with the Division pursuant to  
25 NRS 656A.400.

26 3. A person who violates the provisions of subsection 1 or 2:

27 (a) Is guilty of a misdemeanor; and

28 (b) May be assessed a civil penalty of not more than \$5,000.

29 4. An action for the enforcement of a civil penalty assessed  
30 pursuant to this section may be brought in any court of competent  
31 jurisdiction by the district attorney of the appropriate county or the  
32 Attorney General.

33 5. Any civil penalty recovered pursuant to this section must be  
34 deposited with the State Treasurer for credit to the Account for  
35 Services for Persons With Impaired Speech or Hearing created by  
36 NRS 427A.797.

37 6. The Division shall report a violation of a provision of  
38 subsection 1 or 2 to the district attorney of the county in which the  
39 violation occurred or the Attorney General.

40 **Sec. 14.** NRS 50.050 is hereby amended to read as follows:

41 50.050 1. As used in NRS 50.050 to 50.053, inclusive, unless  
42 the context requires otherwise:

43 (a) "Interpreter" means a:

44 (1) Registered *community* interpreter; *or*

45 (2) ~~Registered legal interpreter; or~~



1 ~~—(3)~~ Person who is appointed as an interpreter pursuant to  
2 subsection 2 of NRS 50.0515.

3 (b) “Person with a communications disability” means a person  
4 who, because the person is deaf or has a physical speaking  
5 impairment, cannot readily understand or communicate in the  
6 English language or cannot understand the proceedings.

7 (c) “Registered *community* interpreter” means a person  
8 registered with the Aging and Disability Services Division of the  
9 Department of Health and Human Services pursuant to NRS  
10 656A.100 to engage in the practice of *sign language* interpreting ~~[-~~

11 ~~—(d) “Registered legal interpreter” means a person registered with~~  
12 ~~the Aging and Disability Services Division of the Department of~~  
13 ~~Health and Human Services pursuant to NRS 656A.100 to engage in~~  
14 ~~the practice of interpreting] in a ~~Legal~~ *community* setting.~~

15 2. In all judicial proceedings in which a person with a  
16 communications disability appears as a witness, the court,  
17 magistrate or other person presiding over the proceedings shall  
18 appoint an interpreter to interpret the proceedings to that person and  
19 to interpret the testimony of that person to the court, magistrate or  
20 other person presiding.

21 3. The court, magistrate or other person presiding over the  
22 proceedings shall fix a reasonable compensation for the services and  
23 expenses of the interpreter appointed pursuant to this section. If the  
24 judicial proceeding is civil in nature, the compensation of the  
25 interpreter may be taxed as costs, except that the person with a  
26 communications disability for whose benefit the interpreter is  
27 appointed must not be taxed, charged a fee or otherwise required to  
28 pay any portion of the compensation of the interpreter.

29 4. Claims against a county, municipality, this State or any  
30 agency thereof for the compensation of an interpreter in a criminal  
31 proceeding or other proceeding for which an interpreter must be  
32 provided at public expense must be paid in the same manner as  
33 other claims against the respective entities are paid. Payment may be  
34 made only upon the certificate of the judge, magistrate or other  
35 person presiding over the proceedings that the interpreter has  
36 performed the services required and incurred the expenses claimed.

37 **Sec. 15.** NRS 50.0515 is hereby amended to read as follows:

38 50.0515 1. Except as otherwise provided in this section, in  
39 any judicial or other proceeding in which the court, magistrate or  
40 other person presiding over the proceeding is required to appoint an  
41 interpreter for a person with a communications disability, the court,  
42 magistrate or other person presiding over the proceeding shall  
43 appoint a registered ~~legal~~ *community* interpreter to interpret the  
44 proceeding to that person and to interpret the testimony of that



1 person to the court, magistrate or other person presiding over the  
2 proceeding.

3 2. If a registered ~~legal~~ **community** interpreter cannot be found  
4 or is otherwise unavailable, or if the appointment of a registered  
5 ~~legal~~ **community** interpreter will cause a substantial delay in the  
6 proceeding, the court, magistrate or other person presiding over the  
7 proceeding may, after making a finding to that effect and conducting  
8 a voir dire examination of prospective interpreters, appoint ~~to~~  
9 ~~registered interpreter or~~ any other interpreter that the court,  
10 magistrate or other person presiding over the proceeding determines  
11 is readily able to communicate with the person with a  
12 communications disability, translate the proceeding for him or her,  
13 and accurately repeat and translate the statements of the person with  
14 a communications disability to the court, magistrate or other person  
15 presiding over the proceeding.

16 **Sec. 16.** NRS 391.019 is hereby amended to read as follows:

17 391.019 1. Except as otherwise provided in NRS 391.027,  
18 the Commission shall adopt regulations:

19 (a) Prescribing the qualifications for licensing teachers and other  
20 educational personnel and the procedures for the issuance and  
21 renewal of those licenses. The regulations:

22 (1) Must include, without limitation, the qualifications for  
23 licensing teachers and administrators pursuant to an alternative route  
24 to licensure which provides that the required education and training  
25 may be provided by any qualified provider which has been approved  
26 by the Commission, including, without limitation, institutions of  
27 higher education and other providers that operate independently of  
28 an institution of higher education. The regulations adopted pursuant  
29 to this subparagraph must:

30 (I) Establish the requirements for approval as a qualified  
31 provider;

32 (II) Require a qualified provider to be selective in its  
33 acceptance of students;

34 (III) Require a qualified provider to provide in-person or  
35 virtual supervised, school-based experiences and ongoing support  
36 for its students, such as mentoring and coaching;

37 (IV) Significantly limit the amount of course work  
38 required or provide for the waiver of required course work for  
39 students who achieve certain scores on tests;

40 (V) Allow for the completion in 2 years or less of the  
41 education and training required under the alternative route to  
42 licensure;

43 (VI) Provide that a person who has completed the  
44 education and training required under the alternative route to  
45 licensure and who has satisfied all other requirements for licensure



1 may apply for a regular license pursuant to sub-subparagraph (VII)  
2 regardless of whether the person has received an offer of  
3 employment from a school district, charter school or private school;  
4 and

5 (VII) Upon the completion by a person of the education  
6 and training required under the alternative route to licensure and the  
7 satisfaction of all other requirements for licensure, provide for the  
8 issuance of a regular license to the person pursuant to the provisions  
9 of this chapter and the regulations adopted pursuant to this chapter.

10 (2) Must require an applicant for a license to teach middle  
11 school or junior high school education or secondary education to  
12 demonstrate proficiency in a field of specialization or area of  
13 concentration by successfully completing course work prescribed by  
14 the Department or completing a subject matter competency  
15 examination prescribed by the Department with a score deemed  
16 satisfactory.

17 (3) Must not prescribe qualifications which are more  
18 stringent than the qualifications set forth in NRS 391.0315 for a  
19 licensed teacher who applies for an additional license in accordance  
20 with that section.

21 (b) Identifying fields of specialization in teaching which require  
22 the specialized training of teachers.

23 (c) Except as otherwise provided in NRS 391.125, requiring  
24 teachers to obtain from the Department an endorsement in a field of  
25 specialization to be eligible to teach in that field of specialization.

26 (d) Setting forth the educational requirements a teacher must  
27 satisfy to qualify for an endorsement in each field of specialization.

28 (e) Setting forth the qualifications and requirements for  
29 obtaining a license or endorsement to teach American Sign  
30 Language, including, without limitation, being registered with the  
31 Aging and Disability Services Division of the Department of Health  
32 and Human Services pursuant to NRS 656A.100 to engage in the  
33 practice of *sign language* interpreting in ~~{an}~~ *a primary or*  
34 *secondary* educational setting.

35 (f) Requiring teachers and other educational personnel to be  
36 registered with the Aging and Disability Services Division pursuant  
37 to NRS 656A.100 to engage in the practice of *sign language*  
38 interpreting in ~~{an}~~ *a primary or secondary* educational setting if  
39 they:

40 (1) Provide instruction or other educational services; and

41 (2) Concurrently engage in the practice of *sign language*  
42 interpreting, as defined in NRS 656A.060.

43 (g) Prescribing course work on parental involvement and family  
44 engagement. The Commission shall work in cooperation with the  
45 Office of Parental Involvement and Family Engagement created by



1 NRS 385.630 in developing the regulations required by this  
2 paragraph.

3 (h) Establishing the requirements for obtaining an endorsement  
4 on the license of a teacher, administrator or other educational  
5 personnel in cultural competency.

6 (i) Authorizing the Superintendent of Public Instruction to issue  
7 a license by endorsement to an applicant who holds an equivalent  
8 license or authorization issued by a governmental entity in another  
9 country if the Superintendent determines that the qualifications for  
10 the equivalent license or authorization are substantially similar to  
11 those prescribed pursuant to paragraph (a).

12 (j) Establishing the requirements for obtaining an endorsement  
13 on the license of a teacher, administrator or other educational  
14 personnel in teaching courses relating to financial literacy.

15 2. Except as otherwise provided in NRS 391.027, the  
16 Commission may adopt such other regulations as it deems necessary  
17 for its own government or to carry out its duties.

18 3. Any regulation which increases the amount of education,  
19 training or experience required for licensing:

20 (a) Must, in addition to the requirements for publication in  
21 chapter 233B of NRS, be publicized before its adoption in a manner  
22 reasonably calculated to inform those persons affected by the  
23 change.

24 (b) Must not become effective until at least 1 year after the date  
25 it is adopted by the Commission.

26 (c) Is not applicable to a license in effect on the date the  
27 regulation becomes effective.

28 **Sec. 17.** NRS 427A.040 is hereby amended to read as follows:  
29 427A.040 1. The Division shall, consistent with the priorities  
30 established by the Commission pursuant to NRS 427A.038:

31 (a) Serve as a clearinghouse for information related to problems  
32 of the aged and aging.

33 (b) Assist the Director in all matters pertaining to problems of  
34 the aged and aging.

35 (c) Develop plans, conduct and arrange for research and  
36 demonstration programs in the field of aging.

37 (d) Provide technical assistance and consultation to political  
38 subdivisions with respect to programs for the aged and aging.

39 (e) Prepare, publish and disseminate educational materials  
40 dealing with the welfare of older persons.

41 (f) Gather statistics in the field of aging which other federal and  
42 state agencies are not collecting.

43 (g) Stimulate more effective use of existing resources and  
44 available services for the aged and aging.



1 (h) Develop and coordinate efforts to carry out a comprehensive  
2 State Plan for Providing Services to Meet the Needs of Older  
3 Persons. In developing and revising the State Plan, the Division  
4 shall consider, among other things, the amount of money available  
5 from the Federal Government for services to aging persons and the  
6 conditions attached to the acceptance of such money, and the  
7 limitations of legislative appropriations for services to aging  
8 persons.

9 (i) Coordinate all state and federal funding of service programs  
10 to the aging in the State.

11 2. The Division shall:

12 (a) Provide access to information about services or programs for  
13 persons with disabilities that are available in this State.

14 (b) Work with persons with disabilities, persons interested in  
15 matters relating to persons with disabilities and state and local  
16 governmental agencies in:

17 (1) Developing and improving policies of this State  
18 concerning programs or services for persons with disabilities,  
19 including, without limitation, policies concerning the manner in  
20 which complaints relating to services provided pursuant to specific  
21 programs should be addressed; and

22 (2) Making recommendations concerning new policies or  
23 services that may benefit persons with disabilities.

24 (c) Serve as a liaison between state governmental agencies that  
25 provide services or programs to persons with disabilities to facilitate  
26 communication and the coordination of information and any other  
27 matters relating to services or programs for persons with disabilities.

28 (d) Serve as a liaison between local governmental agencies in  
29 this State that provide services or programs to persons with  
30 disabilities to facilitate communication and the coordination of  
31 information and any other matters relating to services or programs  
32 for persons with disabilities. To inform local governmental agencies  
33 in this State of services and programs of other local governmental  
34 agencies in this State for persons with disabilities pursuant to this  
35 subsection, the Division shall:

36 (1) Provide technical assistance to local governmental  
37 agencies, including, without limitation, assistance in establishing an  
38 electronic network that connects the Division to each of the local  
39 governmental agencies that provides services or programs to  
40 persons with disabilities;

41 (2) Work with counties and other local governmental entities  
42 in this State that do not provide services or programs to persons with  
43 disabilities to establish such services or programs; and

44 (3) Assist local governmental agencies in this State to locate  
45 sources of funding from the Federal Government and other private



1 and public sources to establish or enhance services or programs for  
2 persons with disabilities.

3 (e) Administer the following programs in this State that provide  
4 services for persons with disabilities:

5 (1) The program established pursuant to NRS 427A.791,  
6 427A.793 and 427A.795 to provide services for persons with  
7 physical disabilities;

8 (2) The programs established pursuant to NRS 427A.800,  
9 427A.850 and 427A.860 to provide services to persons with  
10 traumatic brain injuries;

11 (3) The program established pursuant to NRS 427A.610 to  
12 provide hearing aids to children who are hard of hearing;

13 (4) The program established pursuant to NRS 427A.797 to  
14 provide devices for telecommunication to persons who are deaf and  
15 persons with impaired speech or hearing;

16 (5) Any state program for independent living established  
17 pursuant to 29 U.S.C. §§ 796 et seq., with the Rehabilitation  
18 Division of the Department of Employment, Training and  
19 Rehabilitation acting as the designated state unit, as that term is  
20 defined in 34 C.F.R. § 385.4, or the designated state entity, as that  
21 term is defined in 45 C.F.R. § 1329.4, as applicable; and

22 (6) Any state program established pursuant to the Assistive  
23 Technology Act of 1998, 29 U.S.C. §§ 3001 et seq.

24 (f) Provide information to persons with disabilities on matters  
25 relating to the availability of housing for persons with disabilities  
26 and identify sources of funding for new housing opportunities for  
27 persons with disabilities.

28 (g) Before establishing policies or making decisions that will  
29 affect the lives of persons with disabilities, consult with persons  
30 with disabilities and members of the public in this State through the  
31 use of surveys, focus groups, hearings or councils of persons with  
32 disabilities to receive:

33 (1) Meaningful input from persons with disabilities regarding  
34 the extent to which such persons are receiving services, including,  
35 without limitation, services described in their individual service  
36 plans, and their satisfaction with those services; and

37 (2) Public input regarding the development, implementation  
38 and review of any programs or services for persons with disabilities.

39 (h) Publish and make available to governmental entities and the  
40 general public a biennial report which:

41 (1) Provides a strategy for the expanding or restructuring of  
42 services in the community for persons with disabilities that is  
43 consistent with the need for such expansion or restructuring;



1 (2) Reports the progress of the Division in carrying out the  
2 strategic planning goals for persons with disabilities identified  
3 pursuant to chapter 541, Statutes of Nevada 2001;

4 (3) Documents significant problems affecting persons with  
5 disabilities when accessing public services, if the Division is aware  
6 of any such problems;

7 (4) Provides a summary and analysis of the status of the  
8 practice of *sign language* interpreting and the practice of realtime  
9 captioning, including, without limitation, the number of persons  
10 engaged in the practice of *sign language* interpreting in ~~an~~ *a*  
11 *primary or secondary* educational setting in each professional  
12 classification established ~~pursuant to~~ *by* NRS 656A.100 *or the*  
13 *regulations adopted pursuant to NRS 656A.110* and the number of  
14 persons engaged in the practice of realtime captioning in ~~an~~ *a*  
15 *primary or secondary* educational setting; and

16 (5) Recommends strategies and, if determined necessary by  
17 the Division, legislation for improving the ability of the State to  
18 provide services to persons with disabilities and advocate for the  
19 rights of persons with disabilities.

20 3. The Division shall confer with the Department as the sole  
21 state agency in the State responsible for administering the provisions  
22 of this chapter and chapter 435 of NRS.

23 4. The Division shall:

24 (a) Administer the provisions of chapters 435 and 656A of NRS;  
25 and

26 (b) Assist the Board of Applied Behavior Analysis in the  
27 administration of the provisions of chapter 437 of NRS as  
28 prescribed in that chapter.

29 5. The Division may contract with any appropriate public or  
30 private agency, organization or institution, in order to carry out the  
31 provisions of this chapter and chapter 435 of NRS.

32 **Sec. 18.** 1. A registration to engage in the practice of  
33 interpreting in a community setting or an educational setting that is  
34 held by a person who does not meet the requirements prescribed by  
35 NRS 656A.100, as amended by section 9 of this act, for registration  
36 to engage in the practice of sign language interpreting in a  
37 community setting or a primary or secondary educational setting, as  
38 applicable, on July 1, 2021, expires on that date.

39 2. Notwithstanding the provisions of NRS 656A.100, as  
40 amended by section 9 of this act, on July 1, 2021, the Aging and  
41 Disability Services Division of the Department of Health and  
42 Human Services shall issue:

43 (a) A provisional registration to engage in the practice of sign  
44 language interpreting in a community setting to any person whose





1 registration to engage in the practice of interpreting in a community  
2 setting expires pursuant to subsection 1.

3 (b) A provisional registration to engage in the practice of sign  
4 language interpreting in a primary or secondary educational setting  
5 to any person whose registration to engage in the practice of  
6 interpreting in an educational setting expires pursuant to  
7 subsection 1.

8 3. A provisional registration issued pursuant to this section  
9 expires on July 1, 2024.

10 **Sec. 19.** The Legislative Counsel shall:

11 1. In preparing the reprint and supplements to the Nevada  
12 Revised Statutes, appropriately substitute the term “practice of sign  
13 language interpreting” for the term “practice of interpreting.”

14 2. In preparing supplements to the Nevada Administrative  
15 Code, appropriately:

16 (a) Substitute the term “practice of sign language interpreting”  
17 for the term “practice of interpreting,” as previously used in any  
18 chapter of NAC; and

19 (b) Substitute the term “primary or secondary educational  
20 setting” for the term “educational setting,” as previously used in  
21 chapter 656A of NAC.

22 **Sec. 20.** NRS 656A.023 is hereby repealed.

23 **Sec. 21.** 1. This section becomes effective upon passage and  
24 approval.

25 2. Sections 1 to 20, inclusive, of this act become effective:

26 (a) Upon passage and approval for the purpose of adopting any  
27 regulations and performing any other preparatory administrative  
28 tasks that are necessary to carry out the provisions of this act; and

29 (b) On July 1, 2021, for all other purposes.

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### TEXT OF REPEALED SECTION

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**656A.023 “Charter school” defined.** “Charter school” has  
the meaning ascribed to it in NRS 385.007.

