
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

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.

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 5 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, 2026. **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 or other school activities provided through grade 12; and (2) a
37 community setting if the person wishes to facilitate communication in any other
38 setting, including a postsecondary educational setting, a legal setting or a medical
39 setting. **Section 10** of this bill: (1) requires the Division to adopt regulations
40 prescribing qualifications for professional mentors; and (2) authorizes the Division
41 to establish additional professional classifications of the practice of sign language
42 interpreting.

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

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

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~~ *all communication relating to participation by*
18 *pupils in educational programming or any other activity provided*
19 *by or through a* public school, *school district or* private school ~~or~~
20 ~~charter school~~ in 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 *sign language* interpreting in this State pursuant to
25 NRS 656A.100.

26 **Sec. 6.** NRS 656A.060 is hereby amended to read as follows:

27 656A.060 “Practice of *sign language* interpreting” means the
28 facilitation of communication between persons who are deaf or
29 whose hearing is impaired and other persons. The term includes,
30 without limitation:

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

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

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

42 4. ~~Translating~~ *Interpreting or translating between any*
43 *spoken language* ~~into~~ *and* a visual representation of spoken
44 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 5 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 ~~[(a)]~~ (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, 2026.

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.

TEXT OF REPEALED SECTION

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



