

**HB 2176-S2.E2 - DIGEST**

(DIGEST AS ENACTED)

Requires each trial court organized under Titles 2, 3, and 35 RCW to develop a written language assistance plan to provide a framework for the provision of interpreter services for non-English-speaking persons accessing the court system in both civil and criminal legal matters.

Requires each court receiving reimbursement for interpreter costs under RCW 2.42.120 or 2.43.040 to provide to the administrative office of the courts by November 15, 2009, a report detailing an assessment of the need for interpreter services for non-English speakers in court-mandated classes or programs, the extent to which interpreter services are currently available for court-mandated classes or programs, and the resources that would be required to ensure that interpreters are provided to non-English speakers in court-mandated classes or programs. The administrative office of the courts shall compile these reports and provide them to the appropriate committees of the legislature by December 15, 2009.

Provides that, subject to the availability of funds appropriated for this purpose, the administrative office of the courts shall reimburse the appointing authority for one-half of the payment to the interpreter where a qualified interpreter is appointed for a hearing impaired person by a judicial officer in a proceeding before a court under this act in compliance with RCW 2.42.130 and 2.42.170.