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**SENATE BILL 5255**

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**State of Washington**

**67th Legislature**

**2021 Regular Session**

**By** Senators Wellman, Brown, Das, Hasegawa, Pedersen, Saldaña, and Wilson, C.

Read first time 01/18/21. Referred to Committee on Law & Justice.

1 AN ACT Relating to language understanding of documents used in  
2 dissolution proceedings; and adding a new section to chapter 26.09  
3 RCW.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 26.09  
6 RCW to read as follows:

7 In any matter brought pursuant to domestic relations proceedings  
8 under this chapter, when a limited English proficiency party requests  
9 sight translation of written materials into a spoken message in the  
10 limited English proficiency party's language, or when a court has  
11 reason to know that the party may require an interpreter has limited  
12 English proficiency or is deaf, deaf-blind, or hard of hearing and  
13 relies on sign language to communicate, any orders being presented to  
14 the court for signature on behalf of that party, or by agreement of  
15 the parties, must include a certification from an interpreter that a  
16 sight translation of the order has been provided to the limited  
17 English proficiency party in the relevant language. The interpreter  
18 appointed for this purpose for a person with limited English  
19 proficiency must be an interpreter certified or registered by the  
20 administrative office of the courts pursuant to chapter 2.43 RCW or a  
21 qualified interpreter registered by the administrative office of the

1 courts in a noncertified language, or where the necessary language is  
2 not certified or registered, the interpreter must be qualified by the  
3 judicial officer pursuant to chapter 2.43 RCW. In the event the party  
4 who is deaf, deaf-blind, or hard of hearing relies on any form of a  
5 signed language, the interpreter appointed for this purpose must be  
6 an interpreter appointed pursuant to chapter 2.42 RCW. When  
7 requested, and upon reasonable advance notice, an interpreter must be  
8 provided for limited English proficiency litigants by the court for  
9 sight translation of the court's orders at no cost to the party for  
10 this purpose.

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