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**SSB 5984** - S AMD **1134**

By Senator Wellman

**ADOPTED AS AMENDED 02/19/2020**

Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the following:

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

In any matter brought pursuant to domestic relations proceedings under this chapter, when a limited English proficiency party requests interpretation services, or when a court has reason to know that the party may require an interpreterhas limited English proficiency or is deaf, deaf-blind, or hard of hearing and relies on sign language to communicate, any orders being presented to the court for signature on behalf of that party, or by agreement of the parties, must include a certification from an interpreter that the order has been interpreted to the party in the relevant language. The interpreter appointed for this purpose for a person with limited English proficiency must be an interpreter certified or registered by the administrative office of the courts pursuant to Chapter 2.43 RCW or a qualified interpreter registered by the administrative office of the courts in a noncertified language, or where the necessary language is not certified or registered, the interpreter must be qualified by the judicial officer pursuant to chapter 2.43 RCW. In the event the party who is deaf, deaf-blind, or hard of hearing relies on any form of manual communication, the interpreter appointed for this purpose must be an interpreter appointed pursuant to Chapter 2.42 RCW. When requested, and upon reasonable advance notice, an interpreter must be provided for limited English proficiency litigants by the court at no cost to the party for this purpose.

NEW SECTION. **Sec.**  The sum of one hundred thousand dollars, or as much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2021, from the general fund to the administrative office of the courts interpreter reimbursement program for the purposes of this act.

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|  | EFFECT: (1) Requires the appointment of an interpreter when the court has reason to believe that one party is deaf, deaf-blind, or hard of hearing and relies on sign language to communicate. (2) Requires interpreters to be certified or registered pursuant to chapter 2.43 RCW or appointed pursuant to chapter 2.42 RCW. |

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