

SSB 5984 - S AMD 1134

By Senator Wellman

ADOPTED AS AMENDED 02/19/2020

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the
2 following:

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

6 In any matter brought pursuant to domestic relations proceedings
7 under this chapter, when a limited English proficiency party
8 requests interpretation services, or when a court has reason to know
9 that the party may require an interpreter has limited English
10 proficiency or is deaf, deaf-blind, or hard of hearing and relies on
11 sign language to communicate, any orders being presented to the
12 court for signature on behalf of that party, or by agreement of the
13 parties, must include a certification from an interpreter that the
14 order has been interpreted to the party in the relevant language.
15 The interpreter appointed for this purpose for a person with limited
16 English proficiency must be an interpreter certified or registered
17 by the administrative office of the courts pursuant to Chapter 2.43
18 RCW or a qualified interpreter registered by the administrative
19 office of the courts in a noncertified language, or where the
20 necessary language is not certified or registered, the interpreter
21 must be qualified by the judicial officer pursuant to chapter 2.43
22 RCW. In the event the party who is deaf, deaf-blind, or hard of
23 hearing relies on any form of manual communication, the interpreter
24 appointed for this purpose must be an interpreter appointed pursuant
25 to Chapter 2.42 RCW. When requested, and upon reasonable advance
26 notice, an interpreter must be provided for limited English

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1 proficiency litigants by the court at no cost to the party for this
2 purpose.

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4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The sum of one hundred thousand dollars,
5 or as much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for the
6 fiscal year ending June 30, 2021, from the general fund to the
7 administrative office of the courts interpreter reimbursement
8 program for the purposes of this act.

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10 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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