

CERTIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT
ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2518

Chapter 190, Laws of 2010

61st Legislature
2010 Regular Session

INTERPRETERS--OATH REQUIREMENTS

EFFECTIVE DATE: 06/10/10

Passed by the House February 10, 2010
Yeas 96 Nays 0

FRANK CHOPP

Speaker of the House of Representatives

Passed by the Senate March 5, 2010
Yeas 48 Nays 0

BRAD OWEN

President of the Senate

Approved March 24, 2010, 1:39 p.m.

CHRISTINE GREGOIRE

Governor of the State of Washington

CERTIFICATE

I, Barbara Baker, Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives of the State of Washington, do hereby certify that the attached is **ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2518** as passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate on the dates hereon set forth.

BARBARA BAKER

Chief Clerk

FILED

March 24, 2010

**Secretary of State
State of Washington**

ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2518

Passed Legislature - 2010 Regular Session

State of Washington 61st Legislature 2010 Regular Session

By House Judiciary (originally sponsored by Representatives Goodman, Rodne, and Kelley; by request of Board For Judicial Administration)

READ FIRST TIME 01/25/10.

1 AN ACT Relating to oath requirements for interpreters; and amending
2 RCW 2.43.050 and 2.43.020.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 2.43.050 and 1989 c 358 s 5 are each amended to read
5 as follows:

6 (1) Upon certification or registration and every two years
7 thereafter, certified or registered interpreters shall take an oath,
8 affirming that the interpreter will make a true interpretation to the
9 person being examined of all the proceedings in a language which the
10 person understands, and that the interpreter will repeat the statements
11 of the person being examined to the court or agency conducting the
12 proceedings, in the English language, to the best of the interpreter's
13 skill and judgment. The administrative office of the courts shall
14 maintain a record of the oath in the same manner that the list of
15 certified and registered interpreters is maintained.

16 (2) Before any person serving as an interpreter for the court or
17 agency begins to interpret, the appointing authority shall require the
18 interpreter to state the person's name on the record and whether the

1 person is a certified or registered interpreter. If the interpreter is
2 not a certified or registered interpreter, the interpreter must submit
3 the interpreter's qualifications on the record.

4 (3) Before beginning to interpret, every interpreter appointed
5 under this chapter shall take an oath ((affirming)) unless the
6 interpreter is a certified or registered interpreter who has taken the
7 oath within the last two years as required in subsection (1) of this
8 section. The oath must affirm that the interpreter will make a true
9 interpretation to the person being examined of all the proceedings in
10 a language which the person understands, and that the interpreter will
11 repeat the statements of the person being examined to the court or
12 agency conducting the proceedings, in the English language, to the best
13 of the interpreter's skill and judgment.

14 **Sec. 2.** RCW 2.43.020 and 2005 c 282 s 2 are each amended to read
15 as follows:

16 As used in this chapter:

17 (1) "Non-English-speaking person" means any person involved in a
18 legal proceeding who cannot readily speak or understand the English
19 language, but does not include hearing-impaired persons who are covered
20 under chapter 2.42 RCW.

21 (2) "Qualified interpreter" means a person who is able readily to
22 interpret or translate spoken and written English for non-English-
23 speaking persons and to interpret or translate oral or written
24 statements of non-English-speaking persons into spoken English.

25 (3) "Legal proceeding" means a proceeding in any court in this
26 state, grand jury hearing, or hearing before an inquiry judge, or
27 before an administrative board, commission, agency, or licensing body
28 of the state or any political subdivision thereof.

29 (4) "Certified interpreter" means an interpreter who is certified
30 by the administrative office of the courts.

31 (5) "Appointing authority" means the presiding officer or similar
32 official of any court, department, board, commission, agency, licensing
33 authority, or legislative body of the state or of any political
34 subdivision thereof.

35 (6) "Registered interpreter" means an interpreter who is registered

1 by the administrative office of the courts.

Passed by the House February 10, 2010.

Passed by the Senate March 5, 2010.

Approved by the Governor March 24, 2010.

Filed in Office of Secretary of State March 24, 2010.