An Act To Clarify the American Sign Language Interpreters Licensing Laws

Submitted by the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation pursuant to Joint Rule 204.

Received by the Secretary of the Senate on January 11, 2021. Referred to the Committee on Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed.

Presented by Senator CURRY of Waldo.
Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

Sec. 1. 32 MRSA §1521, sub-§1-D, as enacted by PL 2019, c. 284, §4, is amended to read:

1-D. Conditional license. "Conditional license" means a license granted to an applicant who has completed the educational requirements under section 1524-C, passed a national interpreter certification knowledge exam or a certified deaf interpreter knowledge exam and passed an American Sign Language proficiency interview but who is not certified with the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, Inc. or a comparable or successor organization recognized by the director.

Sec. 2. 32 MRSA §1524-C, sub-§2, as enacted by PL 2019, c. 284, §12, is repealed.

Sec. 3. 32 MRSA §1524-C, sub-§3 is enacted to read:

3. Proof of education and training in the interpreting process. Documented proof of the following:

A. At least one of the following:

(1) An associate degree or higher in American Sign Language, American Sign Language interpreting or deaf studies from an accredited college or university; or
(2) For persons holding a limited license that is current on the effective date of this section, an alternative pathway approved by the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, Inc. or a comparable or successor organization recognized by the director; and

B. At least one of the following:

(1) A passing score on a national interpreter certification knowledge exam; or
(2) A passing score on a certified deaf interpreter knowledge exam administered by an organization that assesses language interpretation recognized by the director.

SUMMARY

This bill clarifies components of the conditional interpreter and conditional deaf interpreter license requirements.