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Legislative Document

No. 18

S.P. 25

In Senate, January 13, 2021

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.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D M Grant'.

DAREK M. GRANT
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator CURRY of Waldo.

1 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

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

4 **1-D. Conditional license.** "Conditional license" means a license granted to an
5 applicant who has completed the educational requirements under section 1524-C, passed a
6 national interpreter certification knowledge exam or a certified deaf interpreter knowledge
7 exam and passed an American Sign Language proficiency interview but who is not certified
8 with the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, Inc. or a comparable or successor
9 organization recognized by the director.

10 **Sec. 2. 32 MRSA §1524-C, sub-§2**, as enacted by PL 2019, c. 284, §12, is repealed.

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

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

14 A. At least one of the following:

15 (1) An associate degree or higher in American Sign Language, American Sign
16 Language interpreting or deaf studies from an accredited college or university; or

17 (2) For persons holding a limited license that is current on the effective date of this
18 section, an alternative pathway approved by the Registry of Interpreters for the
19 Deaf, Inc. or a comparable or successor organization recognized by the director;
20 and

21 B. At least one of the following:

22 (1) A passing score on a national interpreter certification knowledge exam; or

23 (2) A passing score on a certified deaf interpreter knowledge exam administered
24 by an organization that assesses language interpretation recognized by the director.

25 **SUMMARY**

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