

**Annual List of Rulemaking Activity**  
**Rules Adopted January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2022**  
*Prepared by the Secretary of State pursuant to 5 MRS §8053-A sub-§5*

**Agency name:** Department of Professional and Financial Regulation,  
Office of Professional and Occupational Regulation,  
**American Sign Language Interpreters**

**Umbrella-Unit:** **02-041**

**Statutory authority:** 32 MRS. §§ 1522(1), 1524-B, 1524©, 1528, 1528-A, 10 MRS  
§§8003-H, 8003-5-A(D)

**Chapter number/title:** **Ch. 50**, Definitions  
**Ch. 51**, Requirements for Initial Licensure and Licensure by  
Endorsement  
**Ch. 52**, License Renewal, Inactive Licensure Status and Continuing  
Education  
**Ch. 54**, Code of Ethics and Ethical Standards  
**Ch. 55**, Complaints and Investigations (Repeal)

**Filing number:** **2022-182 thru 186**

**Effective date:** 9/20/2022

**Type of rule:** Routine Technical

**Emergency rule:** No

**Principal reason or purpose for rule:**

This is a comprehensive rulemaking effort to repeal and replace existing chapters to align with various statutory changes, streamline the licensure provisions, remove duplicative and/or obsolete terms, identify licensure by endorsement requirements, clarify the continuing education and renewal requirements, outline the requirements for inactive licensure status, and identify standards of professional and ethical conduct.

**Basis statement:**

The American Sign Language Interpreters is a licensure program with the Office of Professional and Occupational Regulation (“OPOR”) and is changed by the Legislature with the regulation of interpreters and deaf interpreters in the State of Maine for the sole purpose to protect the public health and welfare. The Legislature granted the Director of OPOR rulemaking authority pursuant to 32 M.R.S. § 1522(1) to fully implement rule necessary for the proper administration and enforcement of the regulated profession.

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Repeal and Replace Chapter 50 – “Definitions” (formerly “Definitions”)

- Deletes definitions that are either defined in statute or not referenced in rule.
- Amends existing definitions for accuracy.
- Adds definition of “extreme hardship”.

Repeal and Replace Chapter 51 – “Requirements for Initial Licensure and Licensure by Endorsement” (format “Requirements for Initial Licensure”)

- Identifies and clarifies existing statutory qualifications for initial licensure for certified interpreter, certified deaf interpreter, conditional interpreter, and conditional deaf interpreter.
- Identifies the qualifications for licensure by endorsement.
- Clarifies the qualifying score in meeting ASL proficiency for conditional licensure.

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- Identifies alternative pathways in meeting the education qualifications for conditional licensure.

Repeal and Replace Chapter 52 – “License Renewal, Inactive Licensure Status and Continuing Education” (formerly “Licensure Renewal and Continuing Education”)

- Identifies general requirements for renewal, late renewal and reinstatement of licensure.
- Identifies specific renewal requirements for conditional licenses and authorizes requests for “extreme hardship”.
- Identifies the continuing education requirements for each licensure type.
- Identifies content requirements for continuing education.
- Identifies eligible and ineligible continuing education activities.
- Identifies responsibility for documentation/audit regulations.
- Includes “audit findings” language.
- Clarifies requests for waivers, extensions, expectation for first renewals and inactive status.

Repeal and Replace Chapter 54 – “Code of Ethics and Ethical Standards” (formerly “Disclosure Statement”)

- Disclosure statement language was repealed pursuant to 2019 Public Law, Chapter 284.
- Replace with NAD-RID “Code of Ethics and Ethical Standards” excluding Tenet 6 relating to business practices and Tenet 7 relating to professional development as the continuing education requirements already address maintaining professional competency.

Repeal Chapter 55 – “Complaints and Investigations”

- Repeal

**Fiscal impact of rule:**

None