

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-ONE

S.P. 25 - L.D. 18

An Act To Clarify the American Sign Language Interpreters Licensing Laws

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~~ met the requirements ~~under of~~ section 1524-C, ~~passed a national interpreter certification 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Sec. 2. 32 MRSA §1521, sub-§7, as enacted by PL 2019, c. 284, §7, is repealed.

Sec. 3. 32 MRSA §1524-C, sub-§1, as enacted by PL 2019, c. 284, §12, is amended to read:

1. Proof of proficiency in American Sign Language. Documented proof of a qualifying score of 3.5 or higher on an American Sign Language proficiency interview as determined by the director by rule adopted under section 1522; and

Sec. 4. 32 MRSA §1524-C, sub-§2, as enacted by PL 2019, c. 284, §12, is repealed.

Sec. 5. 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. A passing score on a knowledge exam administered by the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, Inc. or a comparable or successor organization recognized by the director.

Sec. 6. Standards until rules adopted. Until rules are adopted under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 32, section 1524-C, subsection 1 defining a qualifying score on an American Sign Language proficiency interview, a person with a score of 3+ or higher on an American Sign Language proficiency interview is deemed to have met the requirements of that subsection.