

HOUSE BILL 37

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(PRE-FILED)

2lr0532
CF SB 370

By: **Delegate Qi**

Requested: September 22, 2021

Introduced and read first time: January 12, 2022

Assigned to: Ways and Means

Committee Report: Favorable

House action: Adopted

Read second time: February 15, 2022

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Education – Educational Interpreter – Certification Requirements**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the State Board of Education and the Professional Standards
4 and Teacher Education Board to develop regulations for the certification of
5 educational interpreters on or before a certain date; providing that individuals who
6 are deaf or hard of hearing may not be denied the right to receive certain credentials
7 or a contract for work for which the individual is otherwise qualified and capable of
8 performing because the individual is deaf or hard of hearing; requiring an
9 educational interpreter employed by a public school to obtain a certification on or
10 before a certain date; requiring the State to explore fiscal support for educational
11 interpreters; and generally relating to the certification of educational interpreters.

12 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
13 Article – Education
14 Section 6–704(a)
15 Annotated Code of Maryland
16 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

17 BY adding to
18 Article – Education
19 Section 6–704.2
20 Annotated Code of Maryland
21 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



Preamble

WHEREAS, As of September 2021, Maryland has 150 part-time and full-time American Sign Language educational interpreters in the State; and

WHEREAS, There is no certification or licensing requirement for educational interpreters in the State; and

WHEREAS, Deaf students have the right to a fully accessible education, including access to all information, specialized personnel, school programs, social activities, and extracurricular activities available to hearing students; and

WHEREAS, Deaf students have the right to qualified professionals proficient in developing each student's acquisition of language through early intervention and during their school years and to assessment on a regular basis by qualified language acquisition professionals; and

WHEREAS, Interpreting services for children who are deaf or hard of hearing include oral transliteration services, cued language transliteration services, and sign language interpreting services; and

WHEREAS, A student who communicates by using American Sign Language needs an educational interpreter proficient in American Sign Language, a student who communicates by using Signed Exact English needs an educational interpreter proficient in Signed Exact English, and a student who relies on oral communication instead of signing to communicate needs an oral interpreter; and

WHEREAS, The National Association of Interpreters in Education believes an interpreter working in an educational setting possesses specialized academic and professional credentials that include knowledge and skill sets for the educational environment; and

WHEREAS, Interpreters must adhere to a high standard of ethical practices and professional integrity, as well as pursue excellence through professional development opportunities that continually enhance the quality of the services provided; now, therefore,

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article – Education

6–704.

(a) (1) In accordance with Title 10, Subtitle 1 of the State Government Article, both the State Board and the Board shall develop for consideration rules and regulations for:

(i) Except as provided in item (iii) of this paragraph, the certification of teachers and other professional personnel in accordance with this article;

(ii) Requirements for preparation of teachers and other education personnel; [and]

(iii) The certification of social workers employed by a local school employer as professional personnel; **AND**

(IV) THE CERTIFICATION OF EDUCATIONAL INTERPRETERS, IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 6-704.2 OF THIS SUBTITLE.

(2) Rules and regulations developed by the State Board shall be reviewed by the Board.

(3) Rules and regulations developed by the Board shall be reviewed by the State Board.

(4) Rules and regulations that are initiated by either the State Board or the Board and submitted for review to each other shall be acted upon within 60 days of their receipt by the other party.

(5) Recommendations on rules and regulations shall be implemented if both the Board and the State Board approve them.

(6) An individual who is otherwise qualified may not be denied the right to receive credentials from the Board, to receive training to become a teacher, or to practice teaching in any school because that individual is totally or partially blind, **DEAF, OR HARD OF HEARING.**

(7) A county board may not refuse to contract with or engage a teacher because of blindness **OR DEAFNESS** if the blind, **DEAF, OR HARD OF HEARING** teacher is capable of performing the duties of the position for which [he] **THE TEACHER** has applied.

(8) The right of a school psychologist, who is certified by the Board to practice school psychology consistent with the provisions of that certification, may not be limited by Title 18 of the Health Occupations Article with respect to the practice of school psychology in an educational institution.

6-704.2.

(A) IN THIS SECTION, "EDUCATIONAL INTERPRETER" MEANS AN INDIVIDUAL WHO PROVIDES SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETING SERVICES IN AN EDUCATIONAL SETTING.

(B) (1) ON OR BEFORE JULY 1, 2023, THE STATE BOARD AND THE BOARD

1 SHALL DEVELOP REGULATIONS FOR THE CERTIFICATION OF EDUCATIONAL
2 INTERPRETERS IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

3 **(2)** IN ADOPTING THE REGULATIONS REQUIRED UNDER PARAGRAPH
4 **(1)** OF THIS SUBSECTION, THE STATE BOARD AND THE BOARD SHALL CONSIDER
5 INCLUDING A FULL OR PARTIAL REIMBURSEMENT OF EXAMINATION COSTS FOR
6 CANDIDATES WHO SUCCESSFULLY OBTAIN A CERTIFICATE AS AN EDUCATIONAL
7 INTERPRETER.

8 **(C)** AN EDUCATIONAL INTERPRETER EMPLOYED BY A PUBLIC SCHOOL
9 SHALL OBTAIN CERTIFICATION ON OR BEFORE **JULY 1, 2029**.

10 **(D)** THE STATE SHALL EXPLORE FISCAL SUPPORT FOR EDUCATIONAL
11 INTERPRETERS.

12 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
13 1, 2022.

Approved:

Governor.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.

President of the Senate.