

# SENATE BILL 297

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EMERGENCY BILL

5lr1910  
CF HB 329

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By: **Senator King**

Introduced and read first time: January 10, 2025

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Sign Language Interpreters – Licensing Requirement**

3 FOR the purpose of altering the date by which an individual must be licensed by the State  
4 Board of Sign Language Interpreters before providing certain sign language  
5 interpretation services or making certain representations; and generally relating to  
6 sign language interpreter licensing.

7 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
8 Article – State Government  
9 Section 9–2418(a)  
10 Annotated Code of Maryland  
11 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

12 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
13 Chapter 269 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2023  
14 Section 4(a) and 5

15 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
16 Chapter 270 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2023  
17 Section 4(a) and 5

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

20 **Article – State Government**

21 9–2418.

22 (a) Except as otherwise provided in this part, **BEGINNING JULY 1, 2026**, an  
23 individual shall be licensed by the Board before the individual may:

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



(1) provide sign language interpretation services in the State; or

(2) represent to the public, by description of services or use of a title or designation, that the individual is authorized to provide sign language interpretation services in the State.

### Chapter 269 of the Acts of 2023

#### SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That:

(a) Beginning [January 1, 2025] **JULY 1, 2026**, an individual who provides sign language interpretation services in the State shall meet the requirements of Title 9, Subtitle 24, Part III of the State Government Article, as enacted by Section 3 of this Act.

SECTION 5. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the member of the State Board of Sign Language Interpreters who is required to have a license issued under this Act and who is appointed to the Board under § 9–2411 of the State Government Article, as enacted by Section 3 of this Act, before [January 1, 2025] **JULY 1, 2026**, may satisfy the license requirement by holding a current nationally or regionally recognized certification, as defined in § 9–2401 of the State Government Article, as enacted by Section 3 of this Act, or by meeting other criteria established by the Board.

### Chapter 270 of the Acts of 2023

#### SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That:

(a) Beginning [January 1, 2025] **JULY 1, 2026**, an individual who provides sign language interpretation services in the State shall meet the requirements of Title 9, Subtitle 24, Part III of the State Government Article, as enacted by Section 3 of this Act.

SECTION 5. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the member of the State Board of Sign Language Interpreters who is required to have a license issued under this Act and who is appointed to the Board under § 9–2411 of the State Government Article, as enacted by Section 3 of this Act, before [January 1, 2025] **JULY 1, 2026**, may satisfy the license requirement by holding a current nationally or regionally recognized certification, as defined in § 9–2401 of the State Government Article, as enacted by Section 3 of this Act, or by meeting other criteria established by the Board.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act is an emergency measure, is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health or safety, has been passed by a yea and nay vote supported by three-fifths of all the members elected to each of the two Houses of the General Assembly, and shall take effect from the date it is enacted.