

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA
ONE HUNDRED FIFTH LEGISLATURE
SECOND SESSION

LEGISLATIVE BILL 783

Introduced by Vargas, 7; Pansing Brooks, 28; Walz, 15; Wayne, 13.

Read first time January 03, 2018

Committee: Education

- 1 A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to civil rights; to amend section 20-150,
- 2 Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2016; to define a term
- 3 relating to deaf and hard of hearing students; and to repeal the
- 4 original section.
- 5 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1 Section 1. Section 20-150, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
2 2016, is amended to read:

3 20-150 (1) The Legislature hereby finds and declares that it is the
4 policy of the State of Nebraska to secure the rights of deaf and hard of
5 hearing persons who cannot readily understand or communicate in spoken
6 language and who consequently cannot equally participate in or benefit
7 from proceedings, programs, and activities of state agencies and law
8 enforcement personnel unless interpreters are available to assist them.
9 State agencies and law enforcement personnel shall appoint licensed
10 interpreters as provided in sections 20-150 to 20-159, except that courts
11 and probation officials shall appoint interpreters as provided in
12 sections 20-150 to 20-159 and 25-2401 to 25-2407 and public school
13 districts and educational service units shall appoint qualified
14 educational interpreters.

15 (2) The Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing shall license
16 and evaluate interpreters and video remote interpreting providers
17 pursuant to section 20-156. The commission shall (a) develop licensed
18 interpreter guidelines for distribution, (b) develop training to
19 implement the guidelines, (c) adopt and promulgate rules and regulations
20 to implement the guidelines and requirements for licensed interpreters,
21 and (d) develop a roster of interpreters as required in section 71-4728.

22 (3) It is the intent of the Legislature to assure that qualified
23 educational interpreters are provided to deaf and hard of hearing
24 children in kindergarten-through-grade-twelve public school districts and
25 educational service units. The State Department of Education shall adopt
26 and promulgate rules and regulations to implement the guidelines and
27 requirements for qualified educational interpreters, and such rules and
28 regulations shall apply to all qualified educational interpreters. For
29 purposes of this subsection, educational interpreter means any individual
30 providing interpretation, supplemental instruction, or support services
31 to a student who has been verified as eligible for special education

1 services in the category of hearing impairment and who communicates in
2 whole or in part through sign language, when the purpose of that
3 interpretation, supplemental instruction, or support service is to assist
4 the student in understanding his or her assignments, classroom
5 instruction, direction or redirection, change in activities, peer
6 communication, and co-curricular activities. Regular education teachers,
7 occupational therapists, and physical therapists shall not be considered
8 to be educational interpreters for purposes of this subsection.

9 Sec. 2. Original section 20-150, Revised Statutes Cumulative
10 Supplement, 2016, is repealed.