

April 12, 2001

H 1313. INTERPRETER/TRANSLITERATOR LICENSURE. TO ESTABLISH THE INTERPRETER AND TRANSLITERATOR LICENSURE ACT. Adds new GS Ch. 90D as title indicates. Provides that no person shall practice as an interpreter or a transliterator (defined as process of receiving message in one language and delivering into manual form in the same language) unless licensed pursuant to act. Violators are guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor. Establishes the NC Interpreter and Transliterator Licensing Board to consist of seven members appointed by the Governor. Members to serve three year staggered terms. All Board members must be licensed pursuant to the act and employed in NC. The Board has the power to administer the act, adopt rules necessary to carry out purposes of the act, issue and revoke licenses, and maintain records. Sets out behavior that may result in Board denying, suspending, revoking, or refusing to issue the license for an interpreter or transliterator. Gives Board authority to seek injunctive relief against persons engaging in the unlicensed practice of interpreting and transliteration. Licensure requires that applicant (1) be 18 or older, (2) be of good moral character as determined by the Board, and (3) be nationally certified by the National Ass'n of the Deaf or by the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, Inc., or have a national certification recognized by the National Cued Speech Ass'n. Licenses must be renewed annually. Allows provisional licenses for community interpreters or transliterators (defined as persons who provide services in a postsecondary or community setting) and for educational interpreters or transliterators (defined as persons who provide services to children in grades K through 12). A provisional license is valid for one year and may be issued only up to four times per individual, unless extended by Board. Allows Board to set fee of \$225 for a license, a provisional license, and for renewal of either, and \$10 for duplicate licenses. Allows persons presently practicing interpreter or transliterator services to register with the Board within two years of effective date of act and pay a \$50 registration fee to avoid complying with licensing provisions of act. Requires that after July 1, 2008, licenses will require that persons hold a four-year degree from an accredited institution. After July 1, 2008, persons seeking a provisional license as a community or educational interpreter must be a graduate of a two-year interpreter training program or any four-year accredited degree institution.
Intro. by Alexander.

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| Ref. to Finance | GS 90D |
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August 30, 2002

H 1313. INTERPRETER/TRANSLITERATOR LICENSURE. Intro. 4/12/01. House committee substitute makes the following changes to 1st edition. Deletes definitions of "community interpreter or transliterator" and "hearing consumer" and modifies definitions of "interpreting" and "transliterating." Increases membership of proposed new NC Interpreter and Transliterator Licensing Board from seven to nine members—with three members appointed by Governor and three members each recommended by Senate Pres. Pro Tem. and House Speaker and appointed by General Assembly. Authorizes board to adopt rules for continuing education requirements. Revises criteria for licensure and provisional licensure for interpreter or transliterator. Provides, effective July 1, 2008, that person who applies for initial licensure as interpreter or transliterator must hold at least two-year degree (original bill, four-year degree) from regionally accredited institution. Reduces maximum fee for license renewal and provisional license renewal from \$225 to \$150. Deletes criminal penalties section from original bill. Amends GS 8B-1(3), effective July 1, 2003, to provide that "qualified interpreter" means an interpreter licensed under G.S. Ch. 90D. Amends GS 8B-10, effective July 1, 2003, to provide that Div'n of Services of Deaf and Hard of Hearing may charge maximum \$50 fee for person who participates in interpreter training or workshops offered by NC Training and Licensing Preparation Program. Provides that Div'n may charge maximum \$100 fee for diagnostic evaluation offered by program; fee is for voluntary diagnostic services only. Amends GS 115C-110, effective July 1, 2003, to provide that each interpreter or transliterator employed by local educational agency to provide services to hearing-impaired students must annually complete 15 hours of job-related training approved by that agency. Modifies criteria by which person with prior experience on effective date of act may obtain licensure without satisfying all requirements of GS 90D-7. Requires Dep't of Pubic Instruction to provide Board with copy of State Board of Education's approved educational

requirements and standards for interpreters and transliterators employed by local educational agencies who provide support for hearing-impaired students.

September 25, 2002

H 1313. INTERPRETER/TRANSLITERATOR LICENSURE. Intro. 4/12/01. Senate committee substitute makes the following changes to 2nd edition. Adds provision to GS 90D-7 authorizing the Dep't of Justice to provide a criminal record check to the Board for a person who has applied for a new, provisional, or renewal license. Requires the Board to provide the Dep't of Justice, along with any request for a record check, the applicant's fingerprints, any other information the Dept' requires, and a consent form signed by the applicant. Provides for the fingerprints to be sent to the State Bureau of Investigation and from there to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for criminal history checks. Requires the Board to keep information privileged in accordance with state and federal law and guidelines and provides that the information is confidential and is not a public record. Authorizes the Dep't of Justice to charge the applicant a fee for conducting the criminal history check.