

1-1 By: Johnson S.B. No. 331
 1-2 (In the Senate - Filed January 13, 2021; March 9, 2021, read
 1-3 first time and referred to Committee on State Affairs;
 1-4 March 29, 2021, reported favorably by the following vote: Yeas 7,
 1-5 Nays 0; March 29, 2021, sent to printer.)

1-6 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-7 Hughes	X			
1-8 Birdwell	X			
1-9 Campbell	X			
1-10 Hall	X			
1-11 Lucio			X	
1-12 Nelson	X			
1-13 Powell	X			
1-14 Schwertner			X	
1-15 Zaffirini	X			

1-17 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
 1-18 AN ACT

1-19 relating to eligibility to serve as an interpreter in an election.
 1-20 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:
 1-21 SECTION 1. Section 61.032, Election Code, is amended to
 1-22 read as follows:
 1-23 Sec. 61.032. INTERPRETER PERMITTED. If an election officer
 1-24 who attempts to communicate with a voter does not understand the
 1-25 language used by the voter, the voter may communicate through an
 1-26 interpreter selected by the voter or, if the voter has not selected
 1-27 an interpreter, any interpreter an election officer may appoint.
 1-28 SECTION 2. Section 61.033, Election Code, is amended to
 1-29 read as follows:
 1-30 Sec. 61.033. ELIGIBILITY TO SERVE AS INTERPRETER. To be
 1-31 eligible to serve as an interpreter, a person:
 1-32 (1) if selected by the voter, may be any person other
 1-33 than the voter's employer, an agent of the voter's employer, or an
 1-34 officer or agent of a labor union to which the voter belongs; or
 1-35 (2) if appointed to serve as an interpreter by an
 1-36 election officer, must be a registered voter of the county in which
 1-37 the voter needing the interpreter resides or a registered voter of
 1-38 an adjacent county.
 1-39 SECTION 3. Section 61.034, Election Code, is amended to
 1-40 read as follows:
 1-41 Sec. 61.034. TRANSLATING BALLOT. If a voter cannot
 1-42 comprehend the language in which the ballot is printed, the voter
 1-43 may receive assistance in accordance with Subchapter B, Chapter 64
 1-44 [an interpreter may accompany the voter to the voting station for
 1-45 the purpose of translating the ballot to the voter].
 1-46 SECTION 4. Section 61.035, Election Code, is amended to
 1-47 read as follows:
 1-48 Sec. 61.035. OATH. (a) Before serving as an interpreter,
 1-49 the person selected as interpreter must take the following oath
 1-50 administered by an election officer:
 1-51 "I swear (or affirm) that, to the best of my ability, I will
 1-52 correctly interpret and translate each question, answer, or
 1-53 statement addressed either to the voter by any election officer or
 1-54 to an election officer by the voter."
 1-55 (b) A person who will be providing ballot assistance under
 1-56 Section 61.034 must also take the oath required by Subchapter B,
 1-57 Chapter 64, and meet all other requirements of that subchapter.
 1-58 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
 1-59 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
 1-60 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
 1-61 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this

2-1 Act takes effect September 1, 2021.

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