

By: Hartnett

H.B. No. 1642

Substitute the following for H.B. No. 1642:

By: Alonzo

C.S.H.B. No. 1642

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1 relating to the appointment of interpreters for judicial
2 proceedings.
3

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

5 SECTION 1. Section 57.002, Government Code, is amended by
6 amending Subsection (c) and adding Subsections (d) and (e) to read
7 as follows:

8 (c) Subject to Subsection (e), in [~~In~~] a county with a
9 population of less than 50,000, a court may appoint a spoken
10 language interpreter who is not a certified or licensed court
11 interpreter.

12 (d) Subject to Subsection (e), in a county with a population
13 of 50,000 or more, a court may appoint a spoken language interpreter
14 who is not a certified or licensed court interpreter if:

15 (1) the language necessary in the proceeding is a
16 language other than Spanish; and

17 (2) the court makes a finding that there is no licensed
18 court interpreter within 75 miles who can interpret in the language
19 that is necessary in a proceeding.

20 (e) A person appointed under Subsection (c) or (d) [~~and~~
21 who]:

22 (1) must be [~~is~~] qualified by the court as an expert
23 under the Texas Rules of Evidence;

24 (2) must be [~~is~~] at least 18 years of age; and

1 (3) may [~~is~~] not be a party to the proceeding.

2 SECTION 2. The change in law made by this Act applies only
3 to the appointment of a court interpreter under Chapter 57,
4 Government Code, as amended by this Act, on or after the effective
5 date of this Act. The appointment of a court interpreter before the
6 effective date of this Act is governed by the law in effect when the
7 interpreter was appointed, and the former law is continued in
8 effect for that purpose.

9 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2005.