

By: Hartnett

H.B. No. 1642

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

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

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

5 SECTION 1. Section 57.002(c), Government Code, is amended
6 to read as follows:

7 (c) If there is no licensed court interpreter available in
8 the county who can interpret in a language necessary in a
9 proceeding [~~In a county with a population of less than 50,000~~], a
10 court may appoint a spoken language interpreter who is not a
11 certified or licensed court interpreter and who:

12 (1) is qualified by the court as an expert under the
13 Texas Rules of Evidence;

14 (2) is at least 18 years of age; and

15 (3) is not a party to the proceeding.

16 SECTION 2. The change in law made by this Act applies only
17 to the appointment of a court interpreter under Chapter 57,
18 Government Code, as amended by this Act, on or after the effective
19 date of this Act. The appointment of a court interpreter before the
20 effective date of this Act is governed by the law in effect when the
21 interpreter was appointed, and the former law is continued in
22 effect for that purpose.

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