

By: Alvarado

H.B. No. 4445

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the licensing and appointment of certain court interpreters.

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

SECTION 1. Section 57.002, Government Code, is amended by adding Subsection (b-1) to read as follows:

(b-1) A licensed court interpreter appointed under Subsection (a) or (b) by a court located in a county with a population of 3.3 million or more must hold a license that includes the appropriate designation under Section 57.043(d) that indicates the interpreter is permitted to interpret in that court.

SECTION 2. Section 57.043, Government Code, is amended by adding Subsections (d) and (e) to read as follows:

(d) The executive director shall establish license designations for persons who seek to be appointed to interpret in a court located in a county with a population of 3.3 million or more. The person's license must include one of the following designations:

(1) a basic designation that permits the interpreter to interpret court proceedings in justice and municipal courts; or

(2) a master designation that permits the interpreter to interpret court proceedings in all state courts, including justice and municipal courts.

(e) In adopting rules relating to licensing under this

1 subchapter, the commission shall prescribe the qualifications  
2 required for a license that includes a basic designation and for a  
3 license that includes a master designation under Subsection (d).

4 SECTION 3. Section 57.002(b-1), Government Code, as added  
5 by this Act, applies only to the appointment of a licensed court  
6 interpreter on or after September 1, 2010. An appointment before  
7 that date is governed by the law in effect on the date the  
8 appointment was made, and the former law is continued in effect for  
9 that purpose.

10 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2009.