

By: Alvarado

H.B. No. 4445

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the licensing of 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 by a court under Subsection (a) or (b) 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) A license issued under this subchapter must include at least 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 subchapter, the commission shall prescribe the qualifications required for a license that includes a basic designation and for a license that includes a master designation.

SECTION 3. (a) Section 57.043(d), Government Code, as added by this Act, applies only to a court interpreter license

1 issued or renewed under Section 57.043(a), Government Code, on or
2 after September 1, 2009. A court interpreter license issued before
3 that date is governed by the law in effect on the date the license
4 was issued, and the former law is continued in effect for that
5 purpose.

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

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