

1-1 By: Alvarado (Senate Sponsor - Gallegos) H.B. No. 4445  
1-2 (In the Senate - Received from the House May 18, 2009;  
1-3 May 19, 2009, read first time and referred to Committee on  
1-4 Jurisprudence; May 23, 2009, reported favorably by the following  
1-5 vote: Yeas 5, Nays 0; May 23, 2009, sent to printer.)

1-6 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
1-7 AN ACT

1-8 relating to the licensing and appointment of certain court  
1-9 interpreters.

1-10 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-11 SECTION 1. Section 57.002, Government Code, is amended by  
1-12 adding Subsection (b-1) to read as follows:

1-13 (b-1) A licensed court interpreter appointed under  
1-14 Subsection (a) or (b) by a court located in a county with a  
1-15 population of 3.3 million or more must hold a license that includes  
1-16 the appropriate designation under Section 57.043(d) that indicates  
1-17 the interpreter is permitted to interpret in that court.

1-18 SECTION 2. Section 57.043, Government Code, is amended by  
1-19 adding Subsections (d) and (e) to read as follows:

1-20 (d) The executive director shall establish license  
1-21 designations for persons who seek to be appointed to interpret in a  
1-22 court located in a county with a population of 3.3 million or more.  
1-23 The person's license must include one of the following  
1-24 designations:

1-25 (1) a basic designation that permits the interpreter  
1-26 to interpret court proceedings in justice and municipal courts; or

1-27 (2) a master designation that permits the interpreter  
1-28 to interpret court proceedings in all state courts, including  
1-29 justice and municipal courts.

1-30 (e) In adopting rules relating to licensing under this  
1-31 subchapter, the commission shall prescribe the qualifications  
1-32 required for a license that includes a basic designation and for a  
1-33 license that includes a master designation under Subsection (d).

1-34 SECTION 3. Section 57.002(b-1), Government Code, as added  
1-35 by this Act, applies only to the appointment of a licensed court  
1-36 interpreter on or after September 1, 2010. An appointment before  
1-37 that date is governed by the law in effect on the date the  
1-38 appointment was made, and the former law is continued in effect for  
1-39 that purpose.

1-40 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2009.

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