

**House Bill 4445**  
Senate Amendments  
Section-by-Section Analysis

HOUSE VERSION

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:

SENATE VERSION

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 amending Subsection (a) and adding Subsections (d) and (e) to read as follows:

(a) The executive director shall issue a court interpreter license to an applicant who:

(1) can interpret for an individual who can hear but who does not comprehend English or communicate in English;

(2) passes the appropriate examination prescribed by the executive director not earlier than two years before the date the executive director receives the applicant's application for a license; and

(3) possesses the other qualifications for the license required by this subchapter or by rules adopted under this subchapter.

(d) A license issued under this subchapter must include at least one of the following designations:

CONFERENCE

**House Bill 4445**  
Senate Amendments  
Section-by-Section Analysis

HOUSE VERSION

(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 under Subsection (d).

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

**No equivalent provision.**

SENATE VERSION

(1) a basic designation that permits the interpreter to interpret court proceedings in justice courts and municipal courts that are not municipal courts of record, other than a proceeding before the court in which the judge is acting as a magistrate; or

(2) a master designation that permits the interpreter to interpret court proceedings in all courts in this state, including justice courts and municipal courts described by Subdivision (1).

(e) In adopting rules relating to licensing under this subchapter, the commission shall, after consulting with the board, prescribe the minimum score an individual must achieve on an examination to receive a license that includes a basic designation under Subsection (d) and the minimum score an individual must achieve to receive a license that includes a master designation under that subsection.

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

SECTION 3. Section 57.046(a), Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a) The executive director shall prepare examinations

CONFERENCE

**House Bill 4445**  
Senate Amendments  
Section-by-Section Analysis

HOUSE VERSION

SENATE VERSION

CONFERENCE

under this subchapter that test an applicant's knowledge, skill, and efficiency in interpreting under this subchapter. The same examinations must be used for issuing a license that includes a basic designation or master designation as described by Section 57.043(d).

No equivalent provision.

SECTION 4. (a) Notwithstanding Section 57.043(e), Government Code, as added by this Act, and not later than December 1, 2009, the executive director of the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation shall issue to a person who, on September 1, 2009, holds a court interpreter license issued under Section 57.043(a), Government Code, a new court interpreter license that includes a master designation described by Section 57.043(d)(2), Government Code, as added by this Act.

(b) Section 57.043(d), Government Code, as added by this Act, applies only to a court interpreter license, other than a court interpreter license issued under Subsection (a) of this section, that is initially issued under Section 57.043(a), Government Code, on or after September 1, 2009, and to the subsequent renewal of that license.

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

SECTION 5. Same as House version.