

By: West

S.B. No. 1195

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the use of telephone interpreter services in any criminal proceeding before a judge or magistrate.

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

SECTION 1. Article 38.30(a-1), Code of Criminal Procedure, is amended to read as follows:

(a-1) A qualified telephone interpreter may be sworn to interpret for the person in any criminal [~~the trial of a Class C misdemeanor or a~~] proceeding before a judge or magistrate if an interpreter is not available to appear in person at the proceeding [~~before the court~~] or if the only available interpreter is not considered to possess adequate interpreting skills for the particular situation or is unfamiliar with the use of slang. In this subsection, "qualified telephone interpreter" means a telephone service that employs:

(1) licensed court interpreters as defined by Section 157.001, Government Code; or

(2) federally certified court interpreters.

SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2015.