

By: Zaffirini

S.B. No. 1537

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to the appointment of an interpreter in a criminal
3 proceeding.

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

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

7 (a) In any criminal proceeding, when [~~When~~] a motion for
8 appointment of an interpreter is filed by any party or on motion of
9 the court [~~, in any criminal proceeding,~~] and if the court
10 determines [~~it is determined~~] that a person charged or a witness
11 does not understand and speak the English language, an interpreter
12 must be appointed as provided by Section 57.002, Government Code,
13 and sworn to interpret for the person charged or the witness.
14 Subject to Section 57.002, Governemt Code, any [~~Any~~] person may be
15 subpoenaed, attached, or recognized in any criminal action or
16 proceeding [~~7~~] to appear before the proper judge or court to act as
17 interpreter [~~therein~~] under the same rules and penalties as are
18 provided for witnesses. In the event that the only available
19 interpreter is not considered to possess adequate interpreting
20 skills for the particular situation or the interpreter is not
21 familiar with use of slang, the person charged or witness may be
22 permitted by the court to nominate another person to act as
23 intermediary between the person charged or witness and the
24 appointed interpreter during the proceedings.

1 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
2 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
3 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
4 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
5 Act takes effect September 1, 2025.