

1-1 By: Zaffirini S.B. No. 1537
1-2 (In the Senate - Filed February 21, 2025; March 6, 2025,
1-3 read first time and referred to Committee on Criminal Justice;
1-4 March 31, 2025, reported adversely, with favorable Committee
1-5 Substitute by the following vote: Yeas 7, Nays 0; March 31, 2025,
1-6 sent to printer.)

1-7	COMMITTEE VOTE				
1-8		Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-9	Flores	X			
1-10	Parker	X			
1-11	Hagenbuch	X			
1-12	Hinojosa of Hidalgo	X			
1-13	Huffman	X			
1-14	King	X			
1-15	Miles	X			

1-16 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR S.B. No. 1537 By: Flores

1-17 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
1-18 AN ACT

1-19 relating to the appointment of an interpreter in a criminal
1-20 proceeding.

1-21 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:
1-22 SECTION 1. Article 38.30(a), Code of Criminal Procedure, is
1-23 amended to read as follows:

1-24 (a) In any criminal proceeding, when ~~[when]~~ a motion for
1-25 appointment of an interpreter is filed by any party or on motion of
1-26 the court and if the court determines ~~[, in any criminal proceeding,~~
1-27 ~~it is determined]~~ that a person charged or a witness does not
1-28 understand and speak the English language, an interpreter must be
1-29 appointed as provided by Section 57.002, Government Code, and sworn
1-30 to interpret for the person charged or the witness. Subject to
1-31 Section 57.002, Government Code, any ~~[Any]~~ person may be
1-32 subpoenaed, attached, or recognized in any criminal action or
1-33 proceeding~~[,]~~ to appear before the proper judge or court to act as
1-34 interpreter ~~[therein]~~ under the same rules and penalties as are
1-35 provided for witnesses. In the event that the only available
1-36 interpreter is not considered to possess adequate interpreting
1-37 skills for the particular situation or the interpreter is not
1-38 familiar with use of slang, the person charged or witness may be
1-39 permitted by the court to nominate another person to act as
1-40 intermediary between the person charged or witness and the
1-41 appointed interpreter during the proceedings.

1-42 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
1-43 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
1-44 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
1-45 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
1-46 Act takes effect September 1, 2025.

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