

CHAPTER 508

H.B. No. 2109

AN ACT

relating to the schedule of fees adopted by the Texas Commission for the Deaf and Hearing Impaired to be paid to interpreters for persons who are deaf or hearing impaired.

*Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas:*

SECTION 1. Sections 81.006(a) and (c), Human Resources Code, are amended to read as follows:

(a) The commission shall:

(1) develop and implement a statewide program of advocacy and education to ensure continuity of services to the deaf;

(2) provide direct services to the deaf, including interpreter services, information and referral services, message relay services, advocacy services, services to elderly deaf and hearing impaired, training in basic life skills and job-seeking skills, and individual and family counseling;

(3) work to ensure more effective coordination and cooperation among public and nonprofit organizations providing social and educational services to deaf individuals;

(4) establish a registry of available interpreters for the deaf and a catalogue of resources available for the needs of the deaf, both of which it shall disseminate to interested people and update annually;

(5) establish a system to approve courses and workshops for the instruction and continuing education of interpreters for the deaf; and

(6) annually review the schedule of fees recommended by the commission for the payment of interpreters and, as a result of the findings of the review and other relevant information, adopt by rule a schedule of reasonable *hourly* fees to be paid to interpreters with varied levels of skill.

(c) The schedule of fees adopted under Subsection (a)(6) *shall be adopted* [~~of this section must be made available and recommended for adoption~~] by other state agencies. If the commission determines by rule that certificates issued to interpreters by different entities represent equivalent skill levels, the fees recommended for the payment of interpreters holding those certificates must be equivalent. *On request, the commission shall send a copy of the fee schedule to a governmental entity.*

SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 1993.

SECTION 3. The importance of this legislation and the crowded condition of the calendars in both houses create an emergency and an imperative public necessity that the constitutional rule requiring bills to be read on three several days in each house be suspended, and this rule is hereby suspended.

Passed by the House on May 4, 1993, by a non-record vote; passed by the Senate on May 22, 1993, by a viva-voce vote.

Approved June 3, 1993.

Effective Sept. 1, 1993.