

CHAPTER 434

S.B. No. 1346

AN ACT

relating to the qualifications of interpreters for the deaf in certain proceedings.

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

SECTION 1. Subsection (g), Article 38.31, Code of Criminal Procedure, is amended to read as follows:

(g) In this Code:

(1) "Deaf person" means a person who has a hearing impairment, regardless of whether the person also has a speech impairment, that inhibits the person's comprehension of the proceedings or communication with others.

(2) "Qualified interpreter" means an interpreter for the deaf *who holds a current Reverse Skills Certificate, Comprehensive Skills Certificate, Master's Comprehensive Skills Certificate, or Legal Skills Certificate issued by the National Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf or a current Level III, IV, or V Certificate issued by the Board for Evaluation of Interpreters* ~~[whose qualifications have been approved by the State Commission for the Deaf].~~

SECTION 2. Section 21.003, Civil Practice and Remedies Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 21.003. QUALIFICATIONS. The interpreter must *hold a current Reverse Skills Certificate, Comprehensive Skills Certificate, Master's Comprehensive Skills*

*Certificate, or Legal Skills Certificate issued by the National Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf or a current Level III, IV, or V Certificate issued by the Board for Evaluation of Interpreters* [~~have qualifications approved by the Texas Commission for the Deaf~~].

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, and that this Act take effect and be in force from and after its passage, and it is so enacted.

Passed the Senate on May 7, 1987, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0. Passed the House on May 27, 1987, by the following vote: Yeas 147, Nays 0, one present not voting.

Approved June 17, 1987.

Effective June 17, 1987.