

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA

ONE HUNDRED FIRST LEGISLATURE

SECOND SESSION

**LEGISLATIVE BILL 706**

FINAL READING

Introduced by Haar, 21.

Read first time January 06, 2010

Committee: Health and Human Services

A BILL

1 FOR AN ACT relating to hearing interpreters; to amend section  
2 20-156, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska; to change  
3 provisions relating to fees; and to repeal the original  
4 section.

5 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1           Section 1. Section 20-156, Reissue Revised Statutes of  
2 Nebraska, is amended to read:

3           20-156 (1) The Commission for the Deaf and Hard of  
4 Hearing shall license and evaluate licensed interpreters. The  
5 commission shall create the Interpreter Review Board pursuant  
6 to section 71-4728.05 to set policies, standards, and procedures  
7 for evaluation and licensing of interpreters. The commission may  
8 recognize evaluation and certification programs as a means to carry  
9 out the duty of evaluating interpreters' skills. The commission  
10 may define and establish different levels or types of licensure  
11 to reflect different levels of proficiency and different specialty  
12 areas.

13           (2) The commission shall establish and charge reasonable  
14 fees for licensure of interpreters, including applications, initial  
15 competency assessments, renewals, modifications, record keeping,  
16 approval, conduct, and sponsorship of continuing education, and  
17 assessment of continuing competency pursuant to sections 20-150  
18 to 20-159. All fees collected pursuant to this section by the  
19 commission shall be remitted to the State Treasurer for credit to  
20 the Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Fund. Such fees  
21 shall be disbursed for payment of expenses related to this section.

22           (3) The commission shall prepare and maintain a roster  
23 of licensed interpreters as provided by section 71-4728. Nothing  
24 in sections 20-150 to 20-159 shall be construed to prevent any  
25 appointing authority from contracting with a licensed interpreter

1 on a full-time employment basis.

2 (4) The commission may deny, refuse to renew, limit,  
3 revoke, suspend, or take other disciplinary actions against a  
4 license when the applicant or licensee is found to have violated  
5 any provision of sections 20-150 to 20-159 or 71-4728 to 71-4732,  
6 or any rule or regulation of the commission adopted and promulgated  
7 pursuant to such sections, including rules and regulations  
8 governing unprofessional conduct. The Interpreter Review Board  
9 shall investigate complaints regarding the use of interpreters  
10 by any appointing authority, or the providing of interpreting  
11 services by any interpreter, alleged to be in violation of sections  
12 20-150 to 20-159 or rules and regulations of the commission.  
13 The commission shall notify in writing an appointing authority  
14 determined to be employing interpreters in violation of sections  
15 20-150 to 20-159 or rules and regulations of the commission  
16 and shall monitor such appointing authority to prevent future  
17 violations.

18 (5) Any decision of the commission pursuant to this  
19 section shall be subject to review according to the Administrative  
20 Procedure Act.

21 (6) After June 30, 2007, any person providing  
22 interpreting services pursuant to sections 20-150 to 20-159 without  
23 a license issued pursuant to this section may be restrained by  
24 temporary and permanent injunctions.

25 Sec. 2. Original section 20-156, Reissue Revised Statutes

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1 of Nebraska, is repealed.