

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE

BILL NO. Senate Bill 1274

PRINTER NO. 1773

AMOUNT

No Fiscal Impact

FUND

General Fund

DATE INTRODUCED

June 25, 2024

PRIME SPONSOR

Senator Robinson

DESCRIPTION

Senate Bill 1274 amends the Sign Language Interpreter and Transliterators State Registration Act to make updates necessary to modernize the law.

This legislation expands the provisions of the act to individuals who are deafblind. It also includes definitions for 'alternative pathway program', 'certification' and video remote interpreting'.

The bill requires the Department of Labor and Industry to annually review the requirements of all alternative pathway programs and to have the list of approved programs published in the Pennsylvania Bulletin.

Senate Bill 1274 changes the situations in which a person may not be certified but still provide services to include immediate, life-threatening medical emergencies; a first responder in a similar situation; or an individual who resides outside the Commonwealth, holds a certification and provides video remote interpreting. The legislation also clarifies that the exemption from state registration requirements when an individual chooses to use an unregistered interpreter only applies where the individual initiates the request and services are reasonable for the location, content and nature of the situation. This exception shall expire five years from the effective date of the subsection, and the Advisory Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing may consider the extension of the exception.

The bill removes the 20-hour requirement of professional development for renewals and moves the requirements to regulation. It also allows for up to four consecutive provisional registration annual renewals instead of two.

The legislation shall take effect in 60 days, and the five-year sunset provision for the personal choice exemption shall start immediately.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Senate Bill 1274 will have no impact on Commonwealth funds.