

History of Wisconsin's Interpreter Licensure Law

- 1994** Licensure efforts began. Proposals crafted by the Wisconsin Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing and others with leadership from Sarah Benton.
- 2001** 2001 LRB-4386 drafted through the office of Representative Scott Walker.
- Fall 2003** 2003 LRB-1414 Wisconsin Senate Bill 255 drafted [5 drafts]
- With leadership from Sarah Benton, Colleen Keating, WAD (President Jim Powell), WisRID (President Sue Gordon), ODHH, postsecondary interpreter workgroup, religious interpreter workgroup, and others. Key guidance from Kedzie policy advisor Matt Phillips.
- Introduced by Senators Neal Kedzie, Cathy Stepp and Julie Lassa; cosponsored by Representatives Thomas Lothian, Samantha Kerkman, Stephen Nass, Carol Owens and Jake Hines.
- Referred to the Senate Committee on Health, Children, Families, Aging and Long Term Care.
- Nov 24 2003 Public hearing in the Senate Committee on Health, Children, Families, Aging and Long Term Care.
- Jan 29 2004 Passed out of Senate Committee on Health, Children, Families, Aging and Long Term Care with Substitute Amendment [7 changes made stemming from public feedback – clarification of educational interpreter exemption to include all school-sponsored events; clarification of court interpreter exemption; decrease to WITA 2/2 standard; creation of deaf consumer opt-out; creation of grandfather clause for interpreters who move into WI; creation of deaf interpreter license; creation of privileged communication clause].
- Feb 3 2004 Bill as amended passed out of the full Senate on a floor vote.
- Feb 9 2004 Passed to the Assembly Labor Committee, chaired by Representative Stephen Nass. Died in committee. Lack of agreement on quality vs. quantity issues, interpreter shortage issues and what exemptions to allow.

Spring 2004 Statewide Taskforce on Interpreter Licensure (STFIL) created, chaired by Joel Mankowski. Additional leadership from Alice Sykora, Brian Fruits and others.

2004-2009 STFIL active statewide with meetings and town halls.

Fall 2009 2009 LRB-2149 Wisconsin Senate Bill 389 drafted [4 drafts]

With leadership from STFIL, WAD (President Jenny Buechner, Past President Joe Riggio, Vice President and Legislative Committee Chair Chris Woodfill), WisRID (President Anna Johnson, Past President Sue Gordon), ODHH and many others. Key guidance from Kedzie policy advisor Matt Phillips.

Introduced by Senators Neal Kedzie, Mary Lazich, Luther Olson and Tim Carpenter; cosponsored by Representatives Thomas Lothian and John Townsend.

Referred to Senate Committee on Health and Healthcare Reform.

Feb 23 2010 Amendment voted down in the Senate Committee on Health and Healthcare Reform 27-5. Bill passed out of senate committee on voice vote.

Referred to Assembly Committee on Health and Healthcare Reform.

March 3 2010 Public hearing in the Assembly Committee on Health and Healthcare Reform.

Mar 31 2010 Executive Session of the Assembly Committee on Health and Healthcare Reform. 2 amendments to 389 voted down. Bill passed out of committee 10-2-1.

Apr 20 2010 Assembly Special Order Session. Assembly goes into Caucus all day and all night.

Apr 21 2010 Full Assembly vote on 389. Bill passed 72-26-1 [24 Republicans, 1 Democrat and 1 Independent] without amendment.

Apr 23 2010 Meeting with policy advisor Coral Butson in governor's office requesting Governor Jim Doyle's signature.

May 13 2010	2009 Wisconsin Act 360 Date of Enactment [governor Jim Doyle's signature]
May 27 2010	2009 Wisconsin Act 360 Date of Publication
Now to Dec 1	Department of Regulation and Licensing will work with an informal advisory committee to write administrative rules.
Dec 2010	General public hearing for feedback and suggestions before DRL issues official rules.
Dec 1 2010	2009 Wisconsin Act 360 Effective Date
Jan 2010	The new governor will take applications and appoint permanent members of the new Sign Language Interpreter Council (SLIC) with approval from the senate.

2010 Lobbyist Groups For and Against SB389

For	AFT Wisconsin
Against	Association of Wisconsin School Administrators
For	Coalition of Wisconsin Aging Groups, Inc.
For	Community Advocates, Inc.
For	Disability Rights Wisconsin
For	Mental Health America of Wisconsin
Neutral	Wisconsin Association of School Boards, Inc. [wanted amendment to allow DPI licensed interpreters to work with children in non-school settings]
Against	Wisconsin Association of School Business Officials
Against	Wisconsin Association of School District Administrators
For	Wisconsin Coalition of Independent Living Centers
Against	Wisconsin Council for Administrator of Special Services
Undecided	Wisconsin Education Association Council

For Wisconsin Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology
Professional Association

Statistics

RID VIEWS, Winter 2010, Vol. 27, Issue 1, 2009 Annual Report to the Members

National membership in RID 15,010 – find number certified

(At the time of the 2003-2004 bill approx 10,000)

WI members of RID at the close of 2009 345 – find number certified

Newly RID certified in WI in 2009 34

WI RID members who attended the

biennial national RID conference

in Philadelphia, August 2009 40

(The Philadelphia conference achieved record-breaking national attendance.)

The first official national RID conference was held in Delavan, WI July 21-24, 1970 at Lake Lawn Resort. The Wisconsin Chapter of RID (WisRID) will be celebrating RID's 40th anniversary in the same location this November 12-14, 2010.

3/4/2010

www.rid.org

www.rid.org/acct-app/index.cfm?action=search.members (Search Tools: Find an Interpreter Member)

RID members from WI 262

RID certified interpreter members from WI 158

RID associate members from WI	65
RID student members from WI	3

11/11/2009

Leanne Helmrich

Membership Secretary of the Wisconsin Chapter of the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, Inc.

WisRID members total 175 as of 11/10.~ But, we tend to get more (about 20) at conference.

Of the 175, 143 are national RID members

11/23/2009

As of today we have 267 certified and associate members in WI.

Ms. Ryan Butts

Member Services

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Colleen's Press Releases

April 21, 2010

Kedzie Bills Head to the Governor

Madison – Three bills authored or co-authored by Senator Neal Kedzie (R-Elkhorn) have received final approval from the Assembly and Senate and now head to the desk of Governor Jim Doyle for his review and potential signature.

“I am very pleased that even in the hectic final days of the legislative session, these measures were acted on and may soon become law,” said Kedzie.

The first is [Senate Bill 389](#), which creates qualification requirements and licensing standards for sign language interpreters. SB 389 would assure every deaf person receives a standard of service from interpreters, most importantly in medical, financial, or legal matters, where the quality and accuracy of the interpretation could have far-reaching implications. Kedzie says the deaf and hard of hearing community should be afforded the same standard that many of us take for granted, and have an assurance they're receiving the highest level of service.

<http://www.mncdhh.org/faq/27/educational-interpreters-certification-in-minnesota>

www.michigan.gov/documents/Estimate_Report_02-05_119430_7.pdf

"Estimated Deaf/Hard of Hearing Populations by Michigan Counties February, 2005

This information was calculated based on information from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

as well as the U.S. Census Bureau's annual population estimates for the year 2003. Deafness was calculated at .9% of the United States Population while Hard of Hearing was calculated at 7.7%. Hearing Loss is a total of Deafness and Hard of Hearing. These percentages were then applied to each county in the state of Michigan to give an estimate of how many individuals in each category could be expected in these populations based on the national percentages."

He did not think the EIPA levels 4 and above data would help (I did get that from Dan on Monday - only 22 of them in the whole state and they all live in the saturated counties) and might hurt more.