

| | | Current Sign Language Interpreter Law | Proposed Revisions |
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| License Cycle/Renewal | | <p>License Cycle = 2 years</p> <p>DSPS 151 (Restricted) = Renewable twice giving licensee up to 6 years total depending on when obtain initial license</p> <p>DSPS 150 (Renewable) = Renewable indefinitely unless certification lapse</p> | <p>License Cycle = 2 years</p> <p>All license levels will be renewable indefinitely. Licensee holders must maintain their certifications (if applicable) and continuing education requirements.</p> |
| Setting Restrictions | | <p>Currently DSPS licensed individuals can interpret anywhere with the exception of functioning as a K-12 educational interpreter in which an individual would need a DPI license.*</p> <p>*Entities may impose their own restrictions for minimum qualifications</p> | <p>Hearing Intermediate – Cannot interpret legal or mental health. Cannot interpret medical unless teaming with Hearing Advance or Deaf Advance interpreter.</p> <p>Hearing Advance -Cannot interpret legal settings* unless on state court interpreter roster</p> <p>Deaf Intermediate – Cannot interpret legal settings unless on state court interpreter roster</p> <p>Deaf Advance – Cannot interpret legal settings unless on state court interpreter roster.</p> <p>*Legal settings will be defined by Sign Language Interpreter Examining Board (SLIEB)</p> |
| SLIC vs. SLIEB | Title: | Sign Language Interpreter Council (SLIC) | Sign Language Interpreter Examining Board (SLIEB) |
| | Role: | Advisory Council to DSPS | <p>Oversee the sign language interpreter license</p> <p>Authority over penalties including limitations, suspensions, revocations, and forfeitures. (Note: Criminal penalties would still be prosecuted by Department, District Attorney, or State.)</p> <p>Make decisions about license requirements where permitted in the law such as approval of training for deaf interpreters, approval of additional certifications/exams as become available, etc.</p> <p>Enter reciprocity agreements with other states who have licensure</p> |

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| | | | <p>Appoint several members of the MOU committee (see below)</p> <p>Additional scope of work as defined in the law.</p> |
| | Number of Members: | Seven (7) | Seven (7) |
| | Member Roles: | <p>4 deaf consumer representatives (At least one graduate of deaf school and one graduate of mainstream school)</p> <p>2 licensed interpreters</p> <p>1 hearing consumer representative</p> | <p>3 Deaf consumer representatives</p> <p>2 Hearing Advance-License Interpreters</p> <p>1 Deaf Advance-Licensed Interpreter</p> <p>1 Hearing consumer representative</p> |
| | Appointed by... | Governor with Senate Confirmation | Governor in consultation with WisRID and WAD Senate confirmation not required |
| Disciplinary Action | Who has authority? | Primarily DSPS (“department”) or DA | Primarily SLIEB |
| | License Penalties | DSPS can conduct an investigation or hearing about rules relating to the license. They could reprimand a licensee by denying, limiting, suspending, or revoking a license. | SLIEB can ask the DSPS Division of Legal Services and Compliance (DLSC) to perform an independent investigation and hearing. SLIEB makes determination whether to deny, limit, suspend, or revoke license. Can also impose forfeitures up to \$1,000. |
| | Criminal Fines/Penalties | Charges brought by District Attorney (DA) Only: No more than \$200 fine or imprisoned for not more than 6 months or both | Charges brought by District Attorney/State: No more than \$10,000 or imprisoned for not more than 1 year or both |
| | Unlicensed Practice of Interpreting | Department can send a “cease and desist” letter | SLIEB can authorize an injunction (order to stop interpreting) SLIEB, Attorney General, or District Attorney can bring action against an individual if continually ignores the Board’s request to stop. |
| MOU Committee | | (does not exist) | <p><u>Goal of MOU Committee:</u></p> <p>Negotiate, execute, and periodically review a memorandum of understanding between the SLIEB and the Department of Public Instruction regarding DPI's licensure of educational sign language interpreters.</p> |

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| | | <p>Members: Sign Language Interpreter Examining Board (SLIEB) representative appointed by SLIEB.</p> <p>Advanced-Licensed Interpreter appointed by SLIEB.</p> <p>Department of Public Instruction (DPI) representative appointed by State Superintendent.</p> <p>DHH Council member representative appointed by the DHH Council.</p> <p>DPI Licensed Educational Interpreter appointed by State Superintendent.</p> <p>Deaf individual who attended mainstream public schools and was a client of a DPI licensed educational interpreter appointed by SLIEB.</p> <p>Deaf individual who is a parent of a child attending public schools appointed by SLIEB.</p> |
| <p>Continuing Education</p> | <p>(not required through license)</p> | <p>30 hours (or 3.0 CEUs) required per 2-year cycle.</p> <p>Up to 5 hours can be counted for mentoring.</p> <p>Up to 5 hours can be counted for community volunteering in the deaf and/or interpreting community.</p> <p>Hours earned for workshops, conferences, college courses must be RID or BEI sponsor approved continuing education opportunities.</p> <p>If the applicant exceeds the 30 hours minimum from previous cycle up to 10 hours maximum hours can be applied for license renewal for the immediate following cycle.</p> <p>Proof of continuing education required for renewal application (transcript, certificates of completions, letters stating mentoring or community volunteering by someone other than applicant or an organization, etc.)</p> |

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| | | <p>*Waiver to requirement depending on when license holder obtains initial license or extenuating circumstances appealed to the SLIEB.</p> |
| <p>Temporary Exemptions</p> | <p>The council may grant a temporary exemption to an individual to provide interpretation services for a period not to exceed 20 days, if the individual is certified by the Registry of interpreters for the Deaf, Inc. or its successor, or the National Association of the Deaf or its successor. The council may not grant an individual more than 2 temporary exemptions per year.</p> | <p>The board can approve up to 21 working days per year per individual. Temporary exemption request letters must be submitted in writing in advance of work days and include dates the individual will be performing sign language interpretation services, reasons why the individual cannot obtain the full license, and the individual's professional credentials.</p> <p>Additionally, the turnaround time for approval should be no more than 10 business days. This will help individuals applying understand the timeline for last minute requests. Last minute requests can still be applied for. DSPS can approve requests by following parameters set by the Board. If anything ends up outside of those parameters, it is sent to the Board for review. Board does not need to meet to approve temporary exemptions and could possibly appoint a board liaison for approving temporary exemptions.</p> |