

ASSEMBLY, No. 5370

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 23, 2021

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman CAROL A. MURPHY

District 7 (Burlington)

Assemblyman RONALD S. DANCER

District 12 (Burlington, Middlesex, Monmouth and Ocean)

Assemblywoman LISA SWAIN

District 38 (Bergen and Passaic)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblywomen Vainieri Huttie and Dunn

SYNOPSIS

Requires sign language interpreters for sessions and committee meetings of Legislature.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 3/25/2021)

1 AN ACT concerning sign language interpreters for sessions and
2 committees of the Legislature and supplementing chapter 11 of
3 Title 52 of the Revised Statutes.

4

5 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
6 *of New Jersey:*

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8 1. Commencing on the first day of the seventh month following
9 the effective date of P.L. , c. (pending before the Legislature as
10 this bill), a sign language interpreter shall provide simultaneous
11 interpretation of the proceedings of each session of the Senate and
12 each session of the General Assembly.

13 Commencing on the first day of the 25th month following the
14 effective date of P.L. , c. (pending before the Legislature as this
15 bill), a sign language interpreter shall provide simultaneous
16 interpretation of the proceedings of each committee meeting and
17 hearing of a standing reference committee of the Senate and of the
18 General Assembly.

19 This section shall apply when the session, meeting, or hearing is
20 conducted in person or remotely by video.

21 The Department of Human Services shall provide, in coordination
22 with the Office of Legislative Services, the sign language interpreters
23 for the sessions and committee meetings and hearings of the
24 Legislature.

25 As used in this section, “sign language” means a visual-gestural
26 language that incorporates facial grammatical markers, physical
27 affect markers, spatial linguistic information, and fingerspelling, as
28 well as signs made with the hands.

29

30 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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32 **STATEMENT**

33

34 The purpose of this bill is to provide access to legislative
35 proceedings for individuals with hearing loss.

36 This bill requires that a sign language interpreter provide
37 simultaneous interpretation of the proceedings of each legislative
38 session and each committee meeting and hearing of the Senate and
39 the General Assembly of the State Legislature.