

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL NOTE

SB 2443 - HB 2433

March 10, 2014

**SUMMARY OF BILL:** Creates the *Interpreters for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Licensure Act* (act). Creates a 9-member board, the Board of Licensing of Interpreters for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (board), to regulate professional interpreters and transliterators in this state. Specifies that the Board will meet quarterly. Authorizes the Board to set fees for licensure. Specifies that licensees will be required to renew biennially to perform as a professional interpreter or transliterator. Specifies qualification requirements of applicants and licensees. Board members will not be compensated, but will receive reimbursements for necessary expenses incurred while performing duties required by the Board. All reimbursement expenses shall be paid using licensure fee revenue or monies collected from federal or other non-state sources.

Creates a Class B misdemeanor offense to practice as an interpreter or transliterator without first acquiring the applicable license or permit from the board. For the purpose of promulgating rules and regulations, this act shall take effect July 1, 2014. For all other purposes, this act shall take effect July 1, 2015.

**ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:**

**Increase State Revenue - \$19,100/Board of Licensing of Interpreters and Hard of Hearing/FY15-16**

**Increase State Expenditures - \$6,900/ Board of Licensing of Interpreters and Hard of Hearing /FY15-16**

**Other Fiscal Impact - The Board of Licensing of Interpreters for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing may increase or decrease the licensure and permit fees in order to provide sufficient revenue to pay all the costs and expenses of the board. Any additional administrative costs incurred will be paid using board funds. Pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 4-29-121, all health related boards are required to be self-supporting over a two-year period.**

Assumptions:

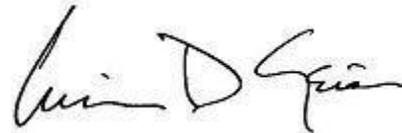
- This board will be placed under the Department of Health, Division of Health Related Boards.

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- According to the Tennessee Association of the Deaf, there are approximately 153 interpreters and transliterators in this state who are certified by the Registry of Interpreters.
- All 153 will purchase a license.
- According to the Division, the biennial licensure fee will cost approximately \$250.
- This will result in annual fee revenue of \$19,125  $[(153 \times \$250) / 2]$ .
- The nine-member board will meet quarterly.
- Members will receive expense reimbursements for gas (\$100), food (\$66), and lodging (\$122).
- It is estimated that three members will not claim any expenses per meeting.
- Expense reimbursements will total \$6,912  $[(\$100 + \$66 + \$122) \times 6 \text{ members} \times 4 \text{ meetings}]$ .
- Any necessary administrative costs will be paid using board funds.
- There will not be a sufficient number of prosecutions for state or local government to experience any significant increase in revenue or expenditures.
- A small increase in cases in the court system, which will result in additional state and local government expenditures for processing the cases and additional state and local government revenue from fees, taxes and costs collected. These expenditures and revenue are estimated to be not significant.
- Pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 4-29-121, all health related boards are required to be self-supporting over a two-year period.

**CERTIFICATION:**

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.



Lucian D. Geise, Executive Director

/jdb