

CHAPTER 114

CONSUMER AND COMMERCIAL TRANSACTIONS

HOUSE BILL 19-1069

BY REPRESENTATIVE(S) Jackson, Arndt, Bird, Buckner, Buentello, Caraveo, Cutter, Duran, Esgar, Exum, Hooton, Jaquez Lewis, Kipp, Lontine, McLachlan, Michaelson Jenet, Roberts, Snyder, Titone, Becker;
also SENATOR(S) Danielson, Court, Crowder, Donovan, Ginal, Story, Tate, Todd, Williams A., Winter.

AN ACT

CONCERNING THE CERTIFICATION OF SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETERS FOR THE PURPOSE OF TITLE PROTECTION, AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, MAKING AN APPROPRIATION.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:

SECTION 1. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 6-1-707, **amend** (1) introductory portion and (1)(e) as follows:

6-1-707. Use of title or degree - deceptive trade practice. (1) A person engages in a deceptive trade practice when, in the course of ~~such~~ THE person's business, vocation, or occupation, ~~such~~ THE person:

(e) (I) Claims to be a "sign language interpreter", "interpreter for the deaf", "deaf interpreter", "ASL-English interpreter", "American sign language (ASL) interpreter", "TRANSLATOR" FOR SIGN LANGUAGE, "transliterator", "certified sign language interpreter", "CERTIFIED TRANSLATOR" FOR SIGN LANGUAGE, "certified interpreter for the deaf", "certified deaf interpreter", "certified ASL-English interpreter", "certified American sign language (ASL) interpreter", or "certified transliterator", unless ~~he or she~~ THE PERSON holds:

(A) A ~~current~~ CURRENTLY VALID certification issued by the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, Inc., or a successor ~~organization~~ ENTITY; OR

(B) ANY CURRENTLY VALID CERTIFICATION FOR SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETATION THAT IS APPROVED BY THE COLORADO COMMISSION FOR THE DEAF, HARD OF HEARING, AND DEAFBLIND.

(II) A PERSON WHO USES ANY OF THE TITLES LISTED IN THIS SUBSECTION (1)(e)

Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material added to existing law; dashes through words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law and such material is not part of the act.

SHALL MAKE AVAILABLE FOR IMMEDIATE INSPECTION BY ANY CONSUMER OR AGENT OF THE STATE:

(A) A CURRENTLY VALID CERTIFICATION FROM THE Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, INC., or a successor organization, ~~membership card that shows proof of current membership and certification shall be made available for immediate inspection and review by any consumer or agent of the state of Colorado.~~ ENTITY;
OR

(B) A CURRENTLY VALID CERTIFICATION THAT IS APPROVED IN ACCORDANCE WITH SUBSECTION (1)(e)(I)(B) OF THIS SECTION.

SECTION 2. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 26-21-106, **add** (1)(f) as follows:

26-21-106. Powers, functions, and duties of commission - community access program - report. (1) The powers, functions, and duties of the commission include:

(f) APPROVING AN ENTITY'S CERTIFICATION OF SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETERS IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 6-1-707 (1)(e)(I)(B).

SECTION 3. Appropriation. (1) For the 2019-20 state fiscal year, \$19,440 is appropriated to the department of regulatory agencies for use by the public utilities commission. This appropriation is from the Colorado telephone users with disabilities fund created in section 40-17-104 (1), C.R.S. To implement this act, the public utilities commission may use this appropriation for the commission for the deaf and hard of hearing cash fund.

(2) For the 2019-20 state fiscal year, \$19,440 is appropriated to the department of human services for use by the executive director's office. This appropriation is from reappropriated funds received from the department of regulatory agencies under subsection (1) of this section. To implement this act, the office may use this appropriation for the Colorado commission for the deaf and hard of hearing.

SECTION 4. Act subject to petition - effective date. This act takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly (August 2, 2019, if adjournment sine die is on May 3, 2019); except that, if a referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V of the state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this act within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take effect unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in November 2020 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.

Approved: April 16, 2019