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**WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
AMENDMENT MEMO**

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**2017 Assembly Bill 589**

**Assembly Substitute  
Amendment 2**

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**2017 ASSEMBLY BILL 589**

2017 Assembly Bill 589 modifies the current licensure program for sign language interpreters licensed by the Department of Safety and Professional Services (DSPS).

**ASSEMBLY SUBSTITUTE AMENDMENT 2**

Section 440.032 (3), Stats., requires DSPS to issue a license as a sign language interpreter to an applicant who meets certain requirements. The requirements for licensure may depend on the method the applicant uses to obtain a license and whether the license is a “renewable license” or a “restricted license.”

**Renewable License**

Under current law, one method for obtaining a “renewable license” generally requires an applicant to possess: (1) an associate’s degree in sign language interpretation or a certificate of completion of an education and training program regarding such interpretation; and (2) one of the following:

- Any valid certification granted by the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, Inc., or its successor.
- A valid certification level 3, 4 or 5 granted by the National Association of the Deaf or its successor.
- Any valid certification granted by any other organization that DSPS determines is substantially equivalent to a certification specified above.

[s. 440.032 (3) (a) 1., Stats.]

Assembly Substitute Amendment 2 also allows DSPS to grant a “renewable license” to an applicant who possesses an associate degree or certification of completion as described above and is **certified by the Board for Evaluation of Interpreters, or its successor.**

### **Restricted License**

One method for obtaining a “restricted license” generally requires an applicant to demonstrate all of the following:

- The applicant has received an associate degree in sign language interpretation or has received a certificate of completion of an education and training program regarding such interpretation.
- The applicant is verified by the Wisconsin interpreting and transliterating assessment at level 2 or higher in both interpreting and transliterating.
- The applicant has passed the written examination administered by the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, Inc., or its successor.
- The applicant is an associate or student member of the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, Inc., or its successor.

[s. 440.032 (3) (b) 1., Stats.]

The substitute amendment also allows DSPS to grant a license to an individual who meets all of the requirements above, except that the applicant may be verified by the Wisconsin interpreting and transliterating assessment at level 2 or higher **or have passed at least the basic performance examination of the Board for Evaluation of Interpreters.** The substitute amendment requires the Department of Health Services (DHS) to administer the performance examination of the Board for Evaluation of Interpreters, or its successor. The substitute amendment also requires DHS to contract with the Board for Evaluation of Interpreters, or its successor, for DHS’s administration of the examinations and permits DHS to submit a request to the Joint Committee on Finance for additional funding to cover one-time expenses related to the administration of the examinations.

Under current law, a “restricted license” may only be renewed twice. [s. 440.032 (3) (b) 3., Stats.] The substitute amendment provides that a “restricted license” may be renewed indefinitely, and modifies the title of a “restricted license” to a “restricted renewable license.” The substitute amendment makes the change relating to indefinite licensure renewal retroactive to an individual holding a valid restricted license on August 31, 2017 and requires DSPS to provide an individual whose license expired under this section on September 1, 2017 with a reasonable opportunity to renew that license.

**BILL HISTORY**

On February 22, 2018, Representative Kleefisch offered Assembly Substitute Amendment 2. That same day, the Assembly adopted Assembly Substitute Amendment 2 to Assembly Bill 589 and passed Assembly Bill 589, as amended, on voice votes. On March 9, 2018, the Senate Committee on Public Benefits, Licensing, and State-Federal Relations recommended concurrence on a vote of Ayes, 4; Noes, 1.

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