AN ACT to repeal 15.407 (9) and 440.032; to amend 440.032 (3) (b) 3. and 905.015 (2) (intro.); and to create 15.405 (18) and chapter 471 of the statutes; relating to: regulation of sign language interpretation services, providing an exemption from emergency rule procedures, granting rule-making authority, and providing a criminal penalty.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

This bill replaces the current licensure program for sign language interpreters licensed by the Department of Safety and Professional Services with a licensure program administered by the Sign Language Interpreters Examining Board, which is created in the bill. The board's membership consists of three deaf, hard of hearing, or deaf-blind individuals, three experienced sign language interpreters who are licensed under the bill, and one individual who is not deaf, hard of hearing, or deaf-blind and has obtained the services of a sign language interpreter on behalf of an individual who is deaf, hard of hearing, or deaf-blind.

Under the bill, the board grants the following licenses:

1. Sign language interpreter — intermediate hearing. The board must license an individual as a sign language interpreter — intermediate hearing if, among other requirements, the individual has received at least a bachelor’s degree from an accredited college or university; the individual has successfully completed an interpreter training program; and the individual has passed the basic performance examination administered by the Board for Evaluation of Interpreters (BEI) and is
certified by BEI or has passed an examination the board determines is substantially equivalent to the BEI basic performance examination. The bill includes alternative paths to licensure as a sign language interpreter — intermediate hearing.

2. Sign language interpreter — advanced hearing. The board must license an individual as a sign language interpreter — advanced hearing if, among other requirements, the individual has received at least a bachelor’s degree from an accredited college or university; the individual has successfully completed an interpreter training program; and the individual has passed the advanced or master performance examination administered by BEI and is certified by BEI, has passed the examination for and holds the national interpreter certification issued by the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, Inc. (RID), or has passed an exam the board determines is substantially equivalent. The bill includes alternative paths to licensure as a sign language interpreter — advanced hearing.

3. Sign language interpreter — intermediate deaf. The board must license an individual as a sign language interpreter — intermediate deaf if, among other requirements, the individual holds a high school diploma or its equivalent; the individual successfully completed at least 40 hours of a sign language interpreter training curriculum for deaf interpreters; the individual successfully completed at least 16 hours of sign language interpretation-related training approved by BEI or RID; and the individual provides to the board letters of recommendation from at least two individuals who hold a sign language interpreter — advanced deaf license, a certified deaf interpreter certification issued by RID, or an equivalent certification. Taken in the aggregate, the letters of recommendation must verify that the individual has successfully completed at least 25 hours of observing the provision of sign language interpretation services provided to clients.

4. Sign language interpreter — advanced deaf. The board must license an individual as a sign language interpreter — advanced deaf if, among other requirements, the individual holds at least an associate degree or satisfies an alternative pathway for education and the individual holds a certified deaf interpreter certification issued by RID or an equivalent certification, as determined by the board.

The bill requires the board to promulgate rules defining the scope of practice of each of the licenses described above, subject to certain restrictions set forth in the bill.

The bill also establishes a committee to negotiate, develop, execute, and periodically review on behalf of the board a memorandum of understanding between the board and the Department of Public Instruction regarding DPI’s licensure of educational sign language interpreters. An individual licensed by DPI and providing sign language interpretation services at a school or school-sponsored event is not required to be licensed by the board. The bill also includes other temporary and permanent exemptions from licensure.

Finally, in addition to enforcement powers and penalties that are similar to the powers provided to other examining boards and applicable penalties, the bill provides enforcement authority to the board with respect to the unauthorized practice of sign language interpretation or the unauthorized use of a title related to
signature language interpretation. Under the bill, the board may conduct investigations, hold hearings, and make findings as to whether a person has engaged in a practice or used a title without a license required under the bill. If the board determines after a public hearing that a person has engaged in a practice or used a title without a required license, the board may issue a special order enjoining the person from the continuation of the practice or use of the title. Any person who violates such a special order may be required to pay a forfeiture of up to $10,000 for each offense. The board, DSPS, the attorney general, or any district attorney may commence an action in the name of the state to recover the forfeiture.

In lieu of holding a public hearing, the board may petition the circuit court for a temporary restraining order or an injunction. Any person who violates such a temporary restraining order or injunction may be fined between $25 and $5,000 or imprisoned for up to one year in the county jail or both.

Similar, although not identical, enforcement authority is provided to DSPS under current law concerning the unauthorized practice or use of a title with respect to a profession regulated by DSPS or a board under DSPS.

For further information see the state fiscal estimate, which will be printed as an appendix to this bill.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. 15.405 (18) of the statutes is created to read:

15.405 (18) SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETERS EXAMINING BOARD. (a) In this subsection, “interpretation services” has the meaning given in s. 471.01 (3).

(b) There is created a sign language interpreters examining board in the department of safety and professional services consisting of the following members appointed for 4-year terms:

1. Three public members who are deaf, hard of hearing, or deaf-blind. All of the members appointed under this subdivision shall have experience as individual clients of sign language interpreters providing interpretation services.

2. Two sign language interpreters — advanced hearing licensed under s. 471.04 (2).

3. One sign language interpreter — advanced deaf licensed under s. 471.04 (4).
4. One public member who is not deaf, hard of hearing, or deaf-blind and who has obtained, or represents an entity that has obtained, interpretation services for the benefit of an individual who is deaf, hard of hearing, or deaf-blind.

(c) The governor shall nominate the members under par. (b) only after consultation with the Wisconsin Association of the Deaf, Inc., or its successor, and the Wisconsin Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, Inc., or its successor, concerning the nominations.

(d) No member appointed under par. (b) may be an individual who is employed by or represents the department of safety and professional services.

SECTION 2. 15.407 (9) of the statutes is repealed.

SECTION 3. 440.032 of the statutes, as affected by 2017 Wisconsin Act .... (this act), is repealed.

SECTION 4. 440.032 (3) (b) 3. of the statutes is amended to read:

440.032 (3) (b) 3. A license granted under subd. 1. or 2. may be renewed twice 3 times and is not valid upon the expiration of the 2nd 3rd renewal period.

SECTION 5. Chapter 471 of the statutes is created to read:

CHAPTER 471
SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETERS
EXAMINING BOARD

471.01 Definitions. In this chapter:
(1) “Board” means the sign language interpreters examining board.
(1m) “Board for Evaluation of Interpreters” means the Board for Evaluation of Interpreters or its successor.
(2) “Client” means a deaf, hard of hearing, or deaf-blind individual for whom another individual provides interpretation services, and, to the extent the context
requires, includes the parent or guardian of a deaf, hard of hearing, or deaf-blind individual if the individual is a minor.

(3) “Interpretation services” means any kind of sign language interpretation services provided to a client, whether provided by a hearing or deaf interpreter.

(4) “Interpreter training program” means any postsecondary educational program that prepares individuals to perform interpretation services.

(4m) “Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf” means the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, Inc., or its successor.

(5) “Support service provider” means an individual who is trained to act as a link between an individual who is deaf-blind and that individual’s environment.

471.02 License required. (1) No individual may, for compensation, provide interpretation services to a client unless the individual is licensed under s. 471.04 or is exempt from licensure.

(2) No individual may use the title “sign language interpreter,” “interpreter for the deaf,” “hearing interpreter,” “deaf interpreter,” “American sign language interpreter,” “ASL English interpreter,” or describe or imply that he or she is an individual who provides interpretation services to clients, or represent himself or herself as an individual who provides interpretation services to clients unless the individual is licensed under s. 471.04 or is exempt from licensure under sub. (3) (a) or (b) or s. 471.03 or 471.035.

(2m) If interpretation services are provided via live remote video conferencing, an individual providing interpretation services shall be licensed under this section if any of the following applies at the time the interpretation services are provided:

(a) The client is located in this state.

(b) The individual providing interpretation services is located in this state.
(3) No license is required under this section for any of the following:

(a) An individual providing interpretation services at any school or school-sponsored event if the individual is licensed by the department of public instruction as an educational interpreter. Subject to s. 471.07 (3), the board and the department of public instruction shall enter into a memorandum of understanding defining the scope of practice of a license issued by the department of public instruction under this paragraph. The department, on behalf of the board, and the department of public instruction shall post the memorandum of understanding on their Internet sites.

(b) An individual providing interpretation services at a religious service or at a religious function, including educational or social events sponsored by a religious organization. This paragraph does not apply to an individual providing interpretation services for a religious organization at a professional function provided or sponsored by the religious organization.

(c) A support service provider providing interpretation services for the purpose of facilitating communication between an individual who provides interpretation services and a client of the individual.

(d) An individual who, in the course of the individual’s employment, provides interpretation services during an emergency unless the interpretation services are provided during a period that exceeds 24 consecutive hours.

471.03 Temporary exemptions. The board may grant, on a case-by-case basis, a temporary exemption from the licensure requirement under s. 471.02 to an individual applying for a temporary exemption, subject to the following:

(1) The board may not grant the same individual temporary exemptions that total more than 21 days in the aggregate each year.
(2) An individual's application for a temporary exemption under this section shall be in writing, shall describe the reasons why the individual cannot obtain a license under s. 471.04 and describe any professional credential the individual does possess, and shall specify the dates the individual intends to provide interpretation services.

(3) The board shall approve or deny a temporary exemption under this section within 10 business days after receiving the application.

471.035 Permanent exemptions. The board may grant, on a case-by-case basis, a permanent exemption from the licensure requirements under s. 471.02 to an individual applying for a permanent exemption, subject to the following:

(1) An individual's application for a permanent exemption under this section shall describe the reasons why the individual cannot obtain a license under s. 471.04.

(2) If the applicant for permanent exemption will be providing interpretation services to a single client only, the individual's application shall identify that client.

471.04 Licensure. The board shall grant licenses for the provision of interpretation services under the following license categories:

(1) Sign language interpreter — intermediate hearing. The board shall grant a sign language interpreter — intermediate hearing license to an applicant who submits an application on a form provided by the board, pays the fee determined by the department under s. 440.05 (1) (a), and satisfies any of the following:

(a) The applicant satisfies all of the following conditions:

1. The applicant has received at least a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university.

2. The applicant provides evidence satisfactory to the board that the applicant has successfully completed an interpreter training program.
3. The applicant has passed the basic performance examination of and is certified by the Board for Evaluation of Interpreters, or the applicant has passed a substantially equivalent examination, as determined by the board.

(b) The applicant satisfies all of the following conditions:

1. The applicant earned an associate degree in sign language interpretation before the effective date of this subdivision .... [LRB inserts date].

2. The applicant has passed the basic performance examination of and is certified by the Board for Evaluation of Interpreters, or the applicant has passed a substantially equivalent examination, as determined by the board.

(c) The applicant satisfies all of the following conditions:

1. Before the effective date of this subdivision .... [LRB inserts date], the applicant passed the basic performance examination of and is certified by the Board for Evaluation of Interpreters, or before the effective date of this subdivision .... [LRB inserts date], the applicant passed a substantially equivalent examination, as determined by the board.

2. The board approves the applicant's licensure after review of all of the circumstances.

(2) SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETER — ADVANCED HEARING. The board shall grant a sign language interpreter — advanced hearing license to an applicant who submits an application on a form provided by the board, pays the fee determined by the department under s. 440.05 (1) (a), and satisfies any of the following:

(a) The applicant satisfies all of the following conditions:

1. The applicant has received at least a bachelor’s degree from an accredited college or university.
2. The applicant provides evidence satisfactory to the board that the applicant has successfully completed an interpreter training program.

3. The applicant has passed the advanced or master performance examination of and is certified by the Board for Evaluation of Interpreters, the applicant has passed the examination for and holds the national interpreter certification issued by the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, or the applicant has passed a substantially equivalent examination, as determined by the board.

   (b) The applicant was issued before the effective date of this paragraph .... [LRB inserts date], and maintains in good standing any of the following:

   1. The national interpreter certification (NIC), advanced or master level national interpreter certification (NIC-Advance or NIC-Master), certificate of interpretation (CI), certificate of transliteration (CT), comprehensive skills certificate (CSC), master comprehensive skills certificate (MSCS), interpretation certificate (IC), or transliteration certificate (TC), issued by the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf.

   2. The National Association of the Deaf III, IV, or V certification.

   3. The advanced or master certification of the Board for Evaluation of Interpreters.

(3) **Sign Language Interpreter — Intermediate Deaf.** The board shall grant a sign language interpreter — intermediate deaf license to an applicant who submits an application on a form provided by the board, pays the fee determined by the department under s. 440.03 (9) (a), and satisfies all of the following:

   (a) The applicant holds a high school diploma or its equivalent, as determined by the board.
(b) The applicant submits evidence satisfactory to the board of the applicant’s successful completion of at least 40 hours of a deaf interpreter training curriculum approved by the board.

(c) The applicant submits evidence satisfactory to the board of the applicant’s successful completion of at least 16 hours of interpretation services-related training approved for continuing education credits by the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf or the Board for Evaluation of Interpreters.

(d) The applicant submits evidence satisfactory to the board of the applicant’s successful completion of American sign language linguistics I and II or substantially equivalent coursework, as determined by the board.

(e) The applicant provides to the board letters of recommendation satisfactory to the board from at least 2 individuals who hold a sign language interpreter — advanced deaf license, a certified deaf interpreter certification issued by the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, or an equivalent certification as determined by the board. Taken in the aggregate, the letters of recommendation shall verify that the applicant has successfully completed at least 25 hours of observing interpretation services provided to clients.

(4) SIGN LANGUAGE INTERpreter — advanced deaf. The board shall grant a sign language interpreter — advanced deaf license to an applicant who submits an application on a form provided by the board, pays the fee determined by the department under s. 440.03 (9) (a), and satisfies all of the following:

(a) The applicant holds at least an associate degree or satisfies an alternative pathway for education, as determined by the board.
(b) The applicant holds a certified deaf interpreter certification issued by the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf or an equivalent certification, as determined by the board.

471.045 Exam administration in Wisconsin. The department of health services shall administer in this state the performance examinations of the Board for Evaluation of Interpreters, unless the board approves another administrator of the examinations.

471.05 Scope of license. The board shall promulgate rules defining the scope of practice of each license granted under s. 471.04, subject to the following:

(1) Sign language interpreter — intermediate hearing. (a) A sign language interpreter — intermediate hearing licensee may not provide interpretation services to clients in any medical setting, as determined by the board, unless he or she is team interpreting with a sign language interpreter — advanced hearing or sign language interpreter — advanced deaf.

(b) A sign language interpreter — intermediate hearing licensee may not provide interpretation services to clients in any legal or mental health setting, as determined by the board.

(2) Interpretation in legal settings. No sign language interpreter — advanced hearing, sign language interpreter — intermediate deaf, or sign language interpreter — advanced deaf licensee may provide interpretation services to a client in any legal setting, as determined by the board, unless he or she is also certified, including a provisional certification, by the supreme court to act as a qualified interpreter in court proceedings under s. 885.38 (2).
471.053 License renewal; continuing education. (1) The renewal date for
a license granted under s. 471.04 is specified in s. 440.08 (2) (a) 68c., and the renewal
fee is determined by the department under s. 440.03 (9) (a).

(2) If the initial license of an applicant for license renewal required the
applicant to hold a certification issued by the Board for Evaluation of Interpreters,
Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, or another organization, the applicant shall
submit evidence satisfactory to the board that the applicant’s certification that is
required for the license has not been revoked or invalidated or otherwise expired.

(3) The board shall promulgate rules requiring each applicant for license
renewal to submit to the board evidence satisfactory to the board of the applicant’s
completion of at least 30 hours of continuing education during the 2-year period
immediately preceding the renewal date specified under s. 440.08 (2) (a) 68c., subject
to the following:

(a) For each renewal period, up to 5 hours of continuing education may be
satisfied by community volunteering in the deaf, hard of hearing, or deaf-blind
community or with a professional sign language interpretation community
organization.

(b) For each renewal period, up to 5 hours of continuing education may be
satisfied by mentoring, as determined by the board.

(c) Continuing education hours earned through workshops, conferences, and
college courses shall have been approved as continuing education by the Registry of
Interpreters for the Deaf or the Board for Evaluation of Interpreters for purposes of
certifications issued by those entities.

(d) An applicant for renewal who obtained his or her initial license under s.
471.04 within the 12 months immediately preceding the renewal date specified
under s. 440.08 (2) (a) 68c. need not satisfy the continuing education requirements under this subsection.

(e) On a case-by-case basis, the board may grant an extension of time to satisfy, or a waiver of, some or all of the continuing education requirements under this subsection.

471.057 Reciprocal licensure. (1) Upon application and payment of the fee specified in s. 440.05 (2), the board may grant the appropriate category of license under s. 471.04 to an individual who holds a license or other credential granted by a governmental authority in a jurisdiction outside this state that qualifies the applicant to provide interpretation services to clients under that category of license granted by the board.

(2) The board may enter into a reciprocal agreement with the officials of a jurisdiction outside this state for licensing interpreters and may grant a license to an individual licensed in that jurisdiction according to the terms of that agreement.

(3) The board shall promulgate rules implementing this section.

471.06 Identification cards. The board shall promulgate rules requiring all interpreters licensed under s. 471.04 to have an identification card with them at all times while providing interpretation services to clients for compensation. The board shall issue the identification card. The identification card issued to a licensee for purposes of this section shall satisfy all of the following conditions:

(1) Include all of the following:

(a) The interpreter’s full name.

(b) The interpreter’s licensure category, whether sign language interpreter — intermediate hearing, sign language interpreter — advanced hearing, sign language interpreter — intermediate deaf, or sign language interpreter — advanced deaf.
(c) Any applicable licensure restriction.

(d) A statement whether the interpreter is certified by the supreme court to act as a qualified interpreter in court proceedings under s. 885.38 (2) and whether that certification is provisional.

(e) Any other information required by the board.

(2) Be color-coded based on the interpreter’s licensure category identified under sub. (1) (b). An intermediate license shall be yellow. An advanced license shall be green.

471.065 Professional conduct. The board shall promulgate rules governing the professional conduct of individuals licensed under s. 471.04. The rules shall incorporate the rules of professional conduct adopted by the National Association of the Deaf, or its successor, and Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf.

471.07 Memorandum of understanding advisory committee. (1) In this section, “memorandum of understanding” means the memorandum of understanding established under s. 471.02 (3) (a).

(2) The secretary shall appoint a committee under s. 440.042, consisting of the following members:

(a) One member of the board, appointed by the board.

(b) One representative of the department of public instruction, appointed by the state superintendent of public instruction.

(c) One member of the deaf and hard-of-hearing education council, appointed by that council.

(d) One interpreter licensed under s. 471.04, appointed by the board.
(e) One individual who is licensed by the department of public instruction as an educational interpreter, appointed by the state superintendent of public instruction.

(f) One member of the deaf, hard of hearing, and deaf-blind community who attended public schools and received the services of an educational interpreter licensed by the department of public instruction, appointed by the board.

(g) One member of the deaf, hard of hearing, and deaf-blind community who is a parent of a child attending public school, appointed by the board.

(3) The committee appointed under sub. (1) shall do all of the following:

(a) On behalf of the board negotiate, develop, and execute the memorandum of understanding established under s. 471.02 (3) (a).

(b) Meet at least once every 2 years to review the memorandum of understanding established under s. 471.02 (3) (a) and make recommendations to the board and the department of public instruction concerning changes to the memorandum of understanding.

471.08 Disciplinary actions and proceedings. (1) Subject to the rules promulgated under s. 440.03 (1), the board may make investigations and conduct hearings to determine whether a violation of this chapter or any rule promulgated under this chapter has occurred.

(2) Subject to the rules promulgated under s. 440.03 (1), the board may reprimand an interpreter licensed under s. 471.04 or deny, limit, suspend, or revoke a license granted under s. 471.04 if the board finds that an applicant for a license or a licensee has done any of the following:

(a) Intentionally made a material misstatement in an application for a license or license renewal.
(b) Subject to ss. 111.321, 111.322, and 111.335, been arrested or convicted of an offense the circumstances of which substantially relate to the provision of interpretation services to clients.

(c) Subject to ss. 111.321, 111.322, and 111.34, provided interpretation services to a client while the interpreter’s ability to do so was impaired by alcohol or other drugs.

(d) Been adjudicated mentally incompetent by a court of competent jurisdiction. A certified copy of the record of an adjudication of incompetency is conclusive evidence of incompetence under this paragraph.

(e) Advertised in a manner that is false or misleading.

(f) Obtained or attempted to obtain compensation through fraud or deceit.

(g) Failed to cooperate with the board in an investigation under this section.

(h) Aided another person in violating this chapter or any rule promulgated under this chapter.

(i) Violated this chapter or any rule promulgated under this chapter or violated any other law of this state, any law of another state, or any federal law that substantially relates to the provision of interpretation services to clients.

(3) In addition to or in lieu of a reprimand or other action under sub. (2), the board may establish by rule other penalties, including a forfeiture not to exceed $1,000 for each violation, for a violation under sub. (2).

471.09 Penalty. A person who violates this chapter or any rule promulgated under this chapter may be fined not more than $10,000 or imprisoned for not more than 6 months or both.
471.095 Injunction. (1) The board may conduct investigations, hold hearings, and make findings as to whether a person has engaged in a practice or used a title without a license required under s. 471.02.

(2) If, after holding a public hearing, the board determines that a person has engaged in a practice or used a title without a license required under s. 471.02, the board may issue a special order enjoining the person from the continuation of the practice or use of the title.

(3) In lieu of holding a public hearing, if the board has reason to believe that a person has engaged in a practice or used a title without a license required under s. 471.02, the board may petition the circuit court for a temporary restraining order or an injunction as provided in ch. 813.

(4) (a) Any person who violates a special order issued under sub. (2) may be required to forfeit not more than $10,000 for each offense. Each day of continued violation constitutes a separate offense. The board, department, attorney general, or any district attorney may commence an action in the name of the state to recover a forfeiture under this paragraph.

(b) Any person who violates a temporary restraining order or an injunction issued by a court upon a petition under sub. (3) may be fined not less than $25 nor more than $5,000 or imprisoned for not more than one year in the county jail or both.

SECTION 6. 905.015 (2) (intro.) of the statutes is amended to read:

905.015 (2) (intro.) In addition to the privilege under sub. (1), a person who is licensed as an interpreter under s. 440.032 (3) 471.04 may not disclose any aspect of a confidential communication facilitated by the interpreter unless one of the following conditions applies:

(1) DEFINITION. In subsections (2) to (7), “board” means the sign language interpreters examining board.

(2) CREDENTIALS OF INITIAL MEMBERS. Notwithstanding section 15.405 (18) (b) 2. or 3. of the statutes, the initial members appointed to the board under section 15.405 (18) (b) 2. or 3. of the statutes need not be licensed under section 471.04 of the statutes, but shall be sign language interpreters licensed under section 440.032, 2015 stats.

(3) STAGGERING OF TERMS. Notwithstanding the length of terms specified for the members of the board under section 15.405 (18) (b) (intro.) of the statutes, 2 of the initial members shall be appointed for terms expiring on July 1, 2020; 2 of the initial members shall be appointed for terms expiring on July 1, 2021; 2 of the initial members shall be appointed for terms expiring on July 1, 2022; and one of the initial members shall be appointed for a term expiring on July 1, 2023.

(4) PROVISIONAL APPOINTMENTS.

(a) Notwithstanding the requirement of advice and consent of the senate under section 15.08 (1) of the statutes, the initial members of the board nominated by the governor may be provisionally appointed by the governor, subject to later senate confirmation. Any provisional appointment shall be in full force until withdrawn by the governor or acted upon by the senate, and if confirmed by the senate shall continue for the remainder of the unexpired term of the member and until a successor is appointed and qualifies. A provisional appointee may exercise all the powers and duties of board membership to which the person is appointed during the time in which the appointee qualifies.

(b) A provisional appointment made under paragraph (a) that is withdrawn by the governor shall, upon withdrawal, lapse and create a vacancy for provisional
appointment of another initial member of the board. Any provisional appointment
made under paragraph (a) that is rejected by the senate shall, upon rejection, lapse
and create a vacancy for provisional appointment of another initial board member.

(5) Transitional licensure.

(a) Sign language interpreter — intermediate hearing. On the effective date of
this paragraph, a sign language interpreter who, immediately prior to the effective
date of this paragraph, held a valid Restricted License issued by the department
of safety and professional services, is considered to be a licensed sign language
interpreter — intermediate hearing under section 471.04 (1) of the statutes, and the
department of safety and professional services shall issue a license to the individual
under section 471.04 (1) of the statutes notwithstanding the fee and other
application requirements under that section of the statutes.

(b) Sign language interpreter — advanced hearing. On the effective date of this
paragraph, a sign language interpreter who, immediately prior to the effective date
of this paragraph, held a valid Renewable License issued by the department of
safety and professional services, is considered to be a licensed sign language
interpreter — advanced hearing under section 471.04 (2) of the statutes, and the
department of safety and professional services shall issue a license to the individual
under section 471.04 (2) of the statutes notwithstanding the fee and other
application requirements under that section of the statutes.

(c) Sign language interpreter — intermediate deaf. On the effective date of this
paragraph, a sign language interpreter who is deaf, hard of hearing, or deaf-blind
and who, immediately prior to the effective date of this paragraph, held a valid Restricted License issued by the department of safety and professional services, is
considered to be a licensed sign language interpreter — intermediate deaf under
section 471.04 (3) of the statutes, and the department of safety and professional services shall issue a license to the individual under section 471.04 (3) of the statutes notwithstanding the fee and other application requirements under that section of the statutes.

(d) *Sign language interpreter — advanced deaf.* On the effective date of this paragraph, a sign language interpreter who is deaf, hard of hearing, or deaf-blind and who, immediately prior to the effective date of this paragraph, held a valid Renewable License issued by the department of safety and professional services, is considered to be a licensed sign language interpreter — advanced deaf under section 471.04 (4) of the statutes, and the department of safety and professional services shall issue a license to the individual under section 471.04 (4) of the statutes notwithstanding the fee and other application requirements under that section of the statutes.

(6) **Other transitional provisions.**

(a) *Department of safety and professional services.*

1. ‘Pending matters.’ Each matter pending with the department of safety and professional services on the effective date of this subdivision that is primarily related to the regulation of sign language interpreters, as determined by the secretary of safety and professional services, is transferred to the board and all materials submitted to or actions taken by the department of safety and professional services with respect to the pending matter are considered as having been submitted to or taken by the board.

2. ‘Rules and orders.’ All rules promulgated by the department of safety and professional services that are primarily related to the regulation of sign language interpreters, as determined by the secretary of safety and professional services, and
that are in effect on the effective date of this subdivision remain in effect until their
specified expiration dates or until amended or repealed by the board. All orders
issued by the department of safety and professional services that are primarily
related to the regulation of sign language interpreters, as determined by the
secretary of safety and professional services, and that are in effect on the effective
date of this subdivision remain in effect until their specified expiration dates or until
modified or rescinded by the board.

(b) Elimination of the sign language interpreter council.

1. ‘Assets and liabilities.’ On the effective date of this subdivision, the assets
and liabilities of the sign language interpreter council become the assets and
liabilities of the board.

2. ‘Tangible personal property.’ On the effective date of this subdivision, all
tangible personal property, including records, of the sign language interpreter
council is transferred to the board.

3. ‘Contracts.’ All contracts entered into by the sign language interpreter
council in effect on the effective date of this subdivision remain in effect and are
transferred to the board. The board shall carry out all obligations under such a
contract unless modified or rescinded by the board to the extent allowed under the
contract.

4. ‘Pending matters.’ Each matter pending with the sign language interpreter
council on the effective date of this subdivision is transferred to the board and all
materials submitted to or actions taken by the sign language interpreter council with
respect to the pending matter are considered as having been submitted to or taken
by the board.
5. ‘Rules and orders.’ All rules promulgated by the sign language interpreter council that are in effect on the effective date of this subdivision remain in effect until their specified expiration dates or until amended or repealed by the board. All orders issued by the sign language interpreter council that are in effect on the effective date of this subdivision remain in effect until their specified expiration dates or until modified or rescinded by the board.

(7) Emergency rules. The board may promulgate emergency rules under section 227.24 of the statutes necessary to implement this act. Notwithstanding section 227.24 (1) (c) and (2) of the statutes, emergency rules promulgated under this subsection remain in effect until July 1, 2019, or the date on which permanent rules take effect, whichever is sooner. Notwithstanding section 227.24 (1) (a) and (3) of the statutes, the board is not required to provide evidence that promulgating a rule under this subsection as an emergency rule is necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health, safety, or welfare and is not required to provide a finding of emergency for a rule promulgated under this subsection.

Section 8. Initial applicability.

(1) Restricted license renewals. The treatment of section 440.032 (3) (b) 3. (by Section 4) of the statutes first applies retroactively to an individual holding a valid license under section 440.032 (3) (b) 1. or 2. of the statutes on August 31, 2017.

Section 9. Effective dates. This act takes effect on the first day of the 7th month beginning after publication, except as follows:

(1) Restricted license renewals. The treatment of section 440.032 (3) (b) 3. (by Section 4) of the statutes and Section 8 of this act take effect on the day after publication.

(END)