

SENATE BILL No. 170

By Committee on Public Health and Welfare

2-2

9 AN ACT providing for establishment of a data bank of available inter-
10 preters for certain purposes and development of qualifications for
11 interpreters.
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13 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:*

14 Section 1. (a) As used in this section:

15 (1) "Available interpreter" means a person 18 or more years of age
16 who voluntarily reports possessing the experience, skills or other qualifi-
17 cations to fulfill the role of interpreter.

18 (2) "Interpreter" means a person who translates orally, in writing or
19 by signing for parties requiring translation to facilitate communication
20 when they do not share a language.

21 (3) "Interpreter data bank" means a directory listing the names of
22 individual interpreters by each of the following: Language spoken, loca-
23 tion and surname.

24 (4) "Secretary" means the secretary of health and environment.

25 (5) "Services, programs and facilities" means adult care homes, hos-
26 pitals, local health departments, community mental health centers and
27 other programs or facilities which provide medical, health care or mental
28 health care services.

29 (b) The secretary shall:

30 (1) Establish a data bank of available interpreters to assist clients in
31 communications with providers of services, programs and facilities; and

32 (2) adopt, with the advice of the advisory committee appointed pur-
33 suant to subsection (d), rules and regulations establishing standards for
34 interpreters, including, but not limited to, a code of ethics which would
35 ensure that interpreters provided impartial and unbiased translations
36 which (A) reflect precisely what is said by all parties and (B) place persons
37 with limited proficiency in the English language on an equal footing with
38 persons who understand English.

39 (c) Nothing in this section shall be construed to require any inter-
40 preter to be included in the data bank provided for by this section or to
41 require any party to use the services of an interpreter who is included in
42 such data bank.

43 (d) The secretary, pursuant to K.S.A 75-5616, and amendments

1 thereto, shall appoint an advisory committee to consult with and advise
2 the secretary on implementation of this section. The executive director
3 of the commission for the deaf and hard of hearing, or the executive
4 director's designee, shall be a member of the advisory committee.

5 (e) The secretary shall adopt such rules and regulations as necessary
6 to implement the provisions of this section.

7 Sec. 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its
8 publication in the statute book.