

---

**SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2006**

---

**State of Washington**

**68th Legislature**

**2024 Regular Session**

**By** House Appropriations (originally sponsored by Representatives Peterson, Mena, Ryu, Ramel, Cortes, Reed, Ormsby, Kloba, Cheney, Doglio, Goodman, Thai, Ortiz-Self, Lekanoff, Hackney, and Davis; by request of Administrative Office of the Courts)

1 AN ACT Relating to court interpreters; amending RCW 2.43.010,  
2 2.43.030, 2.43.050, 2.43.060, 2.43.080, 2.43.070, 2.43.040, 2.43.090,  
3 2.56.030, 7.105.245, 13.04.043, and 2.42.120; reenacting and amending  
4 RCW 2.43.020; adding new sections to chapter 2.43 RCW; and  
5 recodifying RCW 2.43.040 and 2.43.080.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

7 **Sec. 1.** RCW 2.43.010 and 1989 c 358 s 1 are each amended to read  
8 as follows:

9 It is hereby declared to be the policy of this state to secure  
10 the rights, constitutional or otherwise, of persons who, because of a  
11 non-English-speaking cultural background, are unable to readily  
12 understand or communicate in the English language, and who  
13 consequently cannot be fully protected in legal proceedings unless  
14 ((qualified)) interpreters are available to assist them.

15 It is the intent of the legislature in the passage of this  
16 chapter to provide for the use and procedure for the appointment of  
17 such interpreters. ((Nothing in chapter 358, Laws of 1989 abridges  
18 the parties' rights or obligations under other statutes or court  
19 rules or other law.))

1       **Sec. 2.** RCW 2.43.020 and 2010 c 190 s 2 are each reenacted and  
2 amended to read as follows:

3       As used in this chapter:

4       (1) (~~"Appointing authority" means the presiding officer or~~  
5 ~~similar official of any court, department, board, commission, agency,~~  
6 ~~licensing authority, or legislative body of the state or of any~~  
7 ~~political subdivision thereof.~~

8       ~~(2) "Certified interpreter" means an interpreter who is certified~~  
9 ~~by the administrative office of the courts.~~

10       ~~(3))~~ "Credentialed interpreter" means an interpreter who is  
11 credentialed by the administrative office of the courts in a spoken  
12 language.

13       (2) "Judicial officer" means a judge, commissioner, or magistrate  
14 of any court.

15       (3) "Language access plan" means a plan that is publicly  
16 available which contains the elements required by RCW 2.43.090.

17       (4) "Legal proceeding" means ((a)) any proceeding in any court  
18 ((in this state, grand jury hearing, or hearing)), and in any type of  
19 hearing before ((an inquiry judge,)) a judicial officer, an  
20 administrative law judge, or before an administrative board,  
21 commission, agency, or licensing body of the state or any political  
22 subdivision ((thereof)).

23       ~~((4) "Non-English-speaking person"))~~ (5) "Person with limited  
24 English proficiency" means ((any)) a person involved in a legal  
25 proceeding who cannot readily speak or understand the English  
26 language, but does not include ((hearing-impaired persons)) deaf,  
27 deaf-blind, and hard of hearing individuals who are covered under  
28 chapter 2.42 RCW.

29       ~~((5) "Qualified interpreter" means a person who is able readily~~  
30 ~~to interpret or translate spoken and written English for non-English-~~  
31 ~~speaking persons and to interpret or translate oral or written~~  
32 ~~statements of non-English-speaking persons into spoken English.))~~

33       ~~(6) ("Registered interpreter" means an interpreter who is~~  
34 ~~registered by the administrative office of the courts.))~~ "Presiding  
35 officer" means the judicial officer or similar official of any court,  
36 department, board, commission, agency, or licensing authority of the  
37 state or of any political subdivision thereof.

38       **Sec. 3.** RCW 2.43.030 and 2005 c 282 s 3 are each amended to read  
39 as follows:

1 (1) (~~Whenever an interpreter is appointed to assist a non-~~  
2 ~~English-speaking person in a legal proceeding, the appointing~~  
3 ~~authority shall, in the absence of a written waiver by the person,~~  
4 ~~appoint a certified or a qualified interpreter to assist the person~~  
5 ~~throughout the proceedings.~~

6 ~~(a) Except as otherwise provided for in (b) of this subsection,~~  
7 ~~the interpreter appointed shall be a qualified interpreter.~~

8 ~~(b) Beginning on July 1, 1990, when a non-English-speaking person~~  
9 ~~is a party to a legal proceeding, or is subpoenaed or summoned by an~~  
10 ~~appointing authority or is otherwise compelled by an appointing~~  
11 ~~authority to appear at a legal proceeding, the appointing authority~~  
12 ~~shall use the services of only those language interpreters who have~~  
13 ~~been certified by the administrative office of the courts, unless~~  
14 ~~good cause is found and noted on the record by the appointing~~  
15 ~~authority. For purposes of chapter 358, Laws of 1989, "good cause"~~  
16 ~~includes but is not limited to a determination that:~~

17 ~~(i) Given the totality of the circumstances, including the nature~~  
18 ~~of the proceeding and the potential penalty or consequences involved,~~  
19 ~~the services of a certified interpreter are not reasonably available~~  
20 ~~to the appointing authority; or~~

21 ~~(ii) The current list of certified interpreters maintained by the~~  
22 ~~administrative office of the courts does not include an interpreter~~  
23 ~~certified in the language spoken by the non-English-speaking person.~~

24 ~~(c) Except as otherwise provided in this section, when a non-~~  
25 ~~English-speaking person is involved in a legal proceeding, the~~  
26 ~~appointing authority shall appoint a qualified interpreter.)~~ (a)  
27 Credentialed interpreters shall be appointed in legal proceedings  
28 involving participation of persons with limited English proficiency,  
29 unless good cause is found on the record for appointing a  
30 noncredentialed interpreter.

31 (b) For purposes of this chapter, "good cause" includes, but is  
32 not limited to, a determination that:

33 (i) Given the totality of the circumstances, including the nature  
34 of the proceeding and the potential penalty or consequences involved,  
35 the services of a credentialed interpreter are not reasonably  
36 available; or

37 (ii) The current list of interpreters maintained by the  
38 administrative office of the courts does not include an interpreter  
39 credentialed in the language spoken by the person with limited  
40 English proficiency.

1 (2) If good cause is found for using an interpreter who is not  
2 (~~certified or if a qualified interpreter is appointed, the~~  
3 ~~appointing authority shall make a preliminary determination, on the~~  
4 ~~basis of testimony or stated needs of the non-English-speaking~~  
5 ~~person, that the proposed interpreter is able to interpret accurately~~  
6 ~~all communications to and from such person in that particular~~  
7 ~~proceeding. The appointing authority shall satisfy itself on the~~  
8 ~~record that the proposed interpreter:~~

9 ~~(a) Is capable of communicating effectively with the court or~~  
10 ~~agency and the person for whom the interpreter would interpret; and~~

11 ~~(b) Has read, understands, and will abide by the code of ethics~~  
12 ~~for language interpreters established by court rules)) credentialed,~~  
13 ~~the judicial or presiding officer shall make a preliminary~~  
14 ~~determination that the proposed interpreter is able to interpret~~  
15 ~~accurately all communications to and from the person with limited~~  
16 ~~English proficiency in that particular proceeding. The determination~~  
17 ~~shall be made on the basis of testimony or stated needs of the person~~  
18 ~~with limited English proficiency.~~

19 (3) The judicial or presiding officer shall satisfy itself and  
20 state on the record that:

21 (a) The proposed interpreter is capable of communicating  
22 effectively in English and in the non-English language. If the  
23 interpreter is assigned to interpret between two non-English  
24 languages (relay interpreter), the interpreter shall not be required  
25 to communicate in English;

26 (b) The proposed interpreter has read, understands, and will  
27 abide by the code of professional responsibility for judiciary  
28 interpreters established by court rule. If the interpreter does not  
29 meet this requirement, the interpreter may be given time to review  
30 the code of professional responsibility for judiciary interpreters;  
31 and

32 (c) The person with limited English proficiency can understand  
33 the interpreter.

34 (4) The court shall inquire whether the interpreter can  
35 accurately interpret in the consecutive mode and whether the  
36 interpreter can accurately interpret in the simultaneous mode.

37 (5) If the proposed interpreter does not meet the criteria in  
38 subsection (3) of this section, another interpreter must be used.

1       **Sec. 4.** RCW 2.43.050 and 2017 c 83 s 2 are each amended to read  
2 as follows:

3       (1) (a) Upon ~~((certification or registration with the~~  
4 ~~administrative office of the courts, certified or registered))~~  
5 obtaining an interpreter credential with the administrative office of  
6 the courts, credentialed interpreters shall take ~~((an))~~ a permanent  
7 oath, affirming that the interpreter will make a true interpretation  
8 ~~((to the person being examined))~~ of all the proceedings ~~((in a~~  
9 ~~language which the person understands,))~~ and that the interpreter  
10 will repeat the statements of the person ~~((being examined))~~ with  
11 limited English proficiency to the court or agency conducting the  
12 proceedings, in the English language, to the best of the  
13 interpreter's skill and judgment.

14       (b) The administrative office of the courts shall maintain the  
15 list of credentialed interpreters and a record of the oath in the  
16 same manner ~~((that the list of certified and registered interpreters~~  
17 ~~is maintained))~~.

18       (2) Before any person serving as an interpreter for the court or  
19 agency begins to interpret, the ~~((appointing authority))~~ judicial or  
20 presiding officer shall require the interpreter to state the  
21 interpreter's name on the record and whether the interpreter is a  
22 ~~((certified or registered))~~ credentialed interpreter. If the  
23 interpreter is not a ~~((certified or registered))~~ credentialed  
24 interpreter, the interpreter must ~~((submit the interpreter's~~  
25 ~~qualifications))~~ be qualified on the record.

26       (3) Before beginning to interpret, every interpreter appointed  
27 under this chapter shall take an oath unless the interpreter is a  
28 ~~((certified or registered))~~ credentialed interpreter who has taken  
29 the oath as required in subsection (1) of this section. The oath must  
30 affirm that the interpreter will make a true interpretation to the  
31 person being examined of all the proceedings in a language which the  
32 person understands, and that the interpreter will repeat the  
33 statements of the person being examined to the court or agency  
34 conducting the proceedings, in the English language, to the best of  
35 the interpreter's skill and judgment.

36       **Sec. 5.** RCW 2.43.060 and 1989 c 358 s 6 are each amended to read  
37 as follows:

38       (1) The right to ~~((a qualified))~~ an interpreter may not be waived  
39 except when:

1 (a) A ~~((non-English-speaking))~~ person with limited English  
2 proficiency requests a waiver on the record; and

3 (b) The ~~((appointing authority))~~ judicial or presiding officer  
4 determines on the record that the waiver has been made knowingly,  
5 voluntarily, and intelligently.

6 (2) ~~((Waiver of a qualified interpreter))~~ The waiver of the right  
7 to an interpreter may be set aside and an interpreter appointed~~((~~  
8 ~~in))~~ at the discretion of the ~~((appointing authority,))~~ judicial or  
9 presiding officer at any time during the proceedings.

10 (3) The waiver of the right to an interpreter does not preclude a  
11 person with limited English proficiency from exercising the right to  
12 an interpreter at a later time.

13 **Sec. 6.** RCW 2.43.080 and 1989 c 358 s 8 are each amended to read  
14 as follows:

15 All language interpreters serving in a legal proceeding, whether  
16 or not ~~((certified or qualified))~~ credentialed, shall abide by a code  
17 of ~~((ethics))~~ professional responsibility for judiciary interpreters  
18 established by supreme court rule.

19 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** A new section is added to chapter 2.43 RCW  
20 to read as follows:

21 The court shall appoint a team of interpreters as required by  
22 supreme court rule.

23 **Sec. 8.** RCW 2.43.070 and 2005 c 282 s 4 are each amended to read  
24 as follows:

25 (1) Subject to the availability of funds, the administrative  
26 office of the courts shall establish and maintain a credentialing  
27 program for spoken language interpreters and administer ~~((a))~~  
28 comprehensive testing ~~((and certification program for language~~  
29 ~~interpreters))~~.

30 (2) The administrative office of the courts shall work  
31 cooperatively with ~~((community colleges and other))~~ public or private  
32 ~~((or public))~~ educational institutions, and with other public or  
33 private organizations to establish ~~((a certification preparation~~  
34 ~~curriculum and))~~ suitable training programs and engage in recruitment  
35 efforts to ensure the availability of ~~((certified))~~ credentialed  
36 interpreters. Training programs shall be made readily available in  
37 both eastern and western Washington locations.

1 (3) The administrative office of the courts shall establish and  
2 adopt standards of proficiency, written and oral, in English and the  
3 language to be interpreted.

4 (4) The administrative office of the courts shall conduct  
5 periodic examinations to ensure the availability of ((certified))  
6 credentialed interpreters. Periodic examinations shall be made  
7 readily available in both eastern and western Washington locations.

8 (5) The administrative office of the courts shall compile,  
9 maintain, and disseminate a current list of interpreters  
10 ((certified)) credentialed by the office.

11 (6) The administrative office of the courts may charge reasonable  
12 fees for testing, training, and ((certification)) credentialing.

13 (7) The administrative office of the courts may create different  
14 credentials and provide guidance for the selection and use of  
15 credentialed and noncredentialed interpreters to ensure the highest  
16 standards of accuracy are maintained in all judicial proceedings.

17 **Sec. 9.** RCW 2.43.040 and 2023 c 102 s 1 are each amended to read  
18 as follows:

19 (1) Interpreters appointed according to this chapter are entitled  
20 to a reasonable fee for their services and shall be reimbursed for  
21 actual expenses which are reasonable as provided in this section.

22 (2) (a) ~~In all legal proceedings ((in which the non-English-~~  
23 ~~speaking person is a party, or is subpoenaed or summoned by the~~  
24 ~~appointing authority or is otherwise compelled by the appointing~~  
25 ~~authority to appear, including criminal proceedings, grand jury~~  
26 ~~proceedings, coroner's inquests, mental health commitment~~  
27 ~~proceedings, and other legal proceedings initiated by agencies of~~  
28 ~~government, the cost of providing the interpreter shall be borne by~~  
29 ~~the governmental body initiating the legal proceedings.~~

30 ~~(3) In other legal proceedings, the cost of providing the~~  
31 ~~interpreter shall be borne by the non-English-speaking person unless~~  
32 ~~such person is indigent according to adopted standards of the body.~~  
33 ~~In such a case the cost shall be an administrative cost of the~~  
34 ~~governmental body under the authority of which the legal proceeding~~  
35 ~~is conducted.~~

36 ~~(4))~~ and court-mandated classes, a person with limited English  
37 proficiency is not responsible for the cost of the interpreter if  
38 that person is:

39 (i) A party;

1 (ii) Subpoenaed or summoned;

2 (iii) A parent, guardian, or custodian of a juvenile; or

3 (iv) Compelled to appear.

4 (b) In legal proceedings initiated by agencies of government, the  
5 cost of providing the interpreter shall be borne by the governmental  
6 body initiating the legal proceedings.

7 (3) Subject to the availability of funds specifically  
8 appropriated ((therefor)) for this purpose, the administrative office  
9 of the courts shall reimburse the ((appointing authority for up to  
10 one-half of the payment to the interpreter where an interpreter is  
11 appointed by a judicial officer in a proceeding before a court at  
12 public expense and:

13 (a) The interpreter appointed is an interpreter certified by the  
14 administrative office of the courts or is a qualified interpreter  
15 registered by the administrative office of the courts in a  
16 noncertified language, or where the necessary language is not  
17 certified or registered, the interpreter has been qualified by the  
18 judicial officer pursuant to this chapter;

19 (b) The court conducting the legal proceeding has an approved  
20 language assistance plan that complies with RCW 2.43.090; and

21 (c) The fee paid to the interpreter for services is in accordance  
22 with standards established by the administrative office of the  
23 courts)) participating state court for language access services costs  
24 and one-half of the payment of interpreter costs unless a higher  
25 reimbursement rate is established in the omnibus budget.

26 **Sec. 10.** RCW 2.43.090 and 2008 c 291 s 1 are each amended to  
27 read as follows:

28 (1) ((Each trial court)) Trial courts organized under this title  
29 and Titles 3 and 35 RCW must develop and maintain a written language  
30 ((assistance)) access plan to provide a framework for the provision  
31 of ((interpreter)) language access services for ((non-English-  
32 speaking)) persons with limited English proficiency accessing the  
33 court system and its programs in both civil and criminal legal  
34 matters. Courts may use a template developed by the administrative  
35 office of the courts in developing their language access plan.

36 (2) The language ((assistance)) access plan must at a minimum  
37 include((, at a minimum, provisions addressing)) provisions designed  
38 to provide procedures for court staff and the public, as may be  
39 necessary, that address the following:



1 (a) Procedures to identify and ~~((assess))~~ provide the language  
2 needs of ~~((non-English-speaking))~~ persons with limited English  
3 proficiency using the court system;

4 (b) Procedures for ~~((the appointment of))~~ requesting and  
5 appointing interpreters as required under RCW 2.43.030 ~~((. Such~~  
6 ~~procedures shall not require the non-English-speaking person to make~~  
7 ~~the arrangements for the interpreter to appear in court))~~);

8 (c) Procedures for notifying court users of the right to an  
9 interpreter and the availability of interpreter services. Such  
10 information shall be prominently displayed in the courthouse in the  
11 five ~~((foreign))~~ or more languages other than English that ~~((census))~~  
12 reputable data indicates are predominate in the jurisdiction;

13 (d) A process for providing timely communication ~~((with non-~~  
14 ~~English speakers by))~~ between individuals with limited English  
15 proficiency and all court employees who have regular contact with the  
16 public and ~~((meaningful))~~ effective access to court ~~((services,~~  
17 ~~including access to))~~ services provided by the clerk's office and  
18 other court-managed programs;

19 (e) Procedures for evaluating the need for translation of written  
20 materials, and prioritizing and providing those ~~((translation needs,~~  
21 ~~and translating the highest priority materials. These procedures))~~  
22 translated materials. Courts should take into account the frequency  
23 of use of forms by the language group, and the cost of ~~((orally~~  
24 ~~interpreting))~~ providing the forms by other means;

25 (f) A process for ~~((requiring and providing))~~ training ~~((to))~~  
26 judges, court clerks, and ~~((other))~~ court staff on ~~((the requirements~~  
27 ~~of the language assistance plan))~~ best practices in serving  
28 individuals with limited English proficiency in legal proceedings and  
29 how to effectively ~~((access))~~ assign and work with interpreters and  
30 provide interpretation; and

31 (g) A process for an ongoing evaluation of the language  
32 ~~((assistance))~~ access plan and a process for monitoring ~~((of))~~ the  
33 implementation of the language ~~((assistance))~~ access plan.

34 ~~((+2))~~ (3) Each court, when developing its language  
35 ~~((assistance))~~ access plan, must consult with judges, court  
36 administrators ~~((and))~~, court staff, court clerks, interpreters, and  
37 members of the community, such as domestic violence organizations,  
38 pro bono programs, courthouse facilitators, legal services programs,  
39 and/or other community groups whose members speak a language other  
40 than English.

1       ~~((3) Each court must provide a copy of its language assistance~~  
2 ~~plan to the interpreter commission established by supreme court rule~~  
3 ~~for approval prior to receiving state reimbursement for interpreter~~  
4 ~~costs under this chapter.~~

5       ~~(4) Each court receiving reimbursement for interpreter costs~~  
6 ~~under RCW 2.42.120 or 2.43.040 must provide to the administrative~~  
7 ~~office of the courts by November 15, 2009, a report detailing an~~  
8 ~~assessment of the need for interpreter services for non-English~~  
9 ~~speakers in court-mandated classes or programs, the extent to which~~  
10 ~~interpreter services are currently available for court-mandated~~  
11 ~~classes or programs, and the resources that would be required to~~  
12 ~~ensure that interpreters are provided to non-English speakers in~~  
13 ~~court-mandated classes or programs. The report shall also include the~~  
14 ~~amounts spent annually on interpreter services for fiscal years 2005,~~  
15 ~~2006, 2007, 2008, and 2009. The administrative office of the courts~~  
16 ~~shall compile these reports and provide them along with the specific~~  
17 ~~reimbursements provided, by court and fiscal year, to the appropriate~~  
18 ~~committees of the legislature by December 15, 2009.))~~

19       (4) Beginning January 1, 2025, and every two years thereafter,  
20 all courts must submit their most recent language access plan to the  
21 administrative office of the courts.

22       (5) The administrative office of the courts shall provide  
23 technical assistance to trial courts in developing their language  
24 access plans.

25       (6) Each court must provide a copy of its language access plan to  
26 the administrative office of the courts in accordance with criteria  
27 for approval recommended by the interpreter and language access  
28 commission for approval prior to receiving state reimbursement for  
29 interpreter costs under this chapter.

30       (7) Each court shall make available on its website translated  
31 information that informs the public of procedures necessary to access  
32 a court's language access services and programs. The information  
33 shall be provided in five or more languages other than English that  
34 reputable data indicates are predominant in the jurisdiction.

35       **Sec. 11.** RCW 2.56.030 and 2019 c 271 s 5 are each amended to  
36 read as follows:

37       The administrator for the courts shall, under the supervision and  
38 direction of the chief justice:

- 1 (1) Examine the administrative methods and systems employed in  
2 the offices of the judges, clerks, stenographers, and employees of  
3 the courts and make recommendations, through the chief justice, for  
4 the improvement of the same;
- 5 (2) Examine the state of the dockets of the courts and determine  
6 the need for assistance by any court;
- 7 (3) Make recommendations to the chief justice relating to the  
8 assignment of judges where courts are in need of assistance and carry  
9 out the direction of the chief justice as to the assignments of  
10 judges to counties and districts where the courts are in need of  
11 assistance;
- 12 (4) Collect and compile statistical and other data and make  
13 reports of the business transacted by the courts and transmit the  
14 same to the chief justice to the end that proper action may be taken  
15 in respect thereto;
- 16 (5) Prepare and submit budget estimates of state appropriations  
17 necessary for the maintenance and operation of the judicial system  
18 and make recommendations in respect thereto;
- 19 (6) Collect statistical and other data and make reports relating  
20 to the expenditure of public moneys, state and local, for the  
21 maintenance and operation of the judicial system and the offices  
22 connected therewith;
- 23 (7) Obtain reports from clerks of courts in accordance with law  
24 or rules adopted by the supreme court of this state on cases and  
25 other judicial business in which action has been delayed beyond  
26 periods of time specified by law or rules of court and make report  
27 thereof to supreme court of this state;
- 28 (8) Act as secretary of the judicial conference referred to in  
29 RCW 2.56.060;
- 30 (9) Submit annually, as of February 1st, to the chief justice, a  
31 report of the activities of the administrator's office for the  
32 preceding calendar year including activities related to courthouse  
33 security;
- 34 (10) Administer programs and standards for the training and  
35 education of judicial personnel;
- 36 (11) Examine the need for new superior court and district court  
37 judge positions under an objective workload analysis. The results of  
38 the objective workload analysis shall be reviewed by the board for  
39 judicial administration which shall make recommendations to the  
40 legislature. It is the intent of the legislature that an objective

1 workload analysis become the basis for creating additional district  
2 and superior court positions, and recommendations should address that  
3 objective;

4 (12) Provide staff to the judicial retirement account plan under  
5 chapter 2.14 RCW;

6 (13) Attend to such other matters as may be assigned by the  
7 supreme court of this state;

8 (14) Within available funds, develop a curriculum for a general  
9 understanding of child development, placement, and treatment  
10 resources, as well as specific legal skills and knowledge of relevant  
11 statutes including chapters 13.32A, 13.34, and 13.40 RCW, cases,  
12 court rules, interviewing skills, and special needs of the abused or  
13 neglected child. This curriculum shall be completed and made  
14 available to all juvenile court judges, court personnel, and service  
15 providers and be updated yearly to reflect changes in statutes, court  
16 rules, or case law;

17 (15) Develop, in consultation with the entities set forth in RCW  
18 2.56.150(3), a comprehensive statewide curriculum for persons who act  
19 as guardians ad litem under Title 13 or 26 RCW. The curriculum shall  
20 be made available July 1, 2008, and include specialty sections on  
21 child development, child sexual abuse, child physical abuse, child  
22 neglect, domestic violence, clinical and forensic investigative and  
23 interviewing techniques, family reconciliation and mediation  
24 services, and relevant statutory and legal requirements. The  
25 curriculum shall be made available to all superior court judges,  
26 court personnel, and all persons who act as guardians ad litem;

27 (16) Develop a curriculum for a general understanding of hate  
28 crime offenses, as well as specific legal skills and knowledge of RCW  
29 9A.36.080, relevant cases, court rules, and the special needs of hate  
30 crime offense victims. This curriculum shall be made available to all  
31 superior court and court of appeals judges and to all justices of the  
32 supreme court;

33 (17) Develop, in consultation with the criminal justice training  
34 commission and the commissions established under chapters 43.113,  
35 43.115, and 43.117 RCW, a curriculum for a general understanding of  
36 ethnic and cultural diversity and its implications for working with  
37 youth of color and their families. The curriculum shall be available  
38 to all superior court judges and court commissioners assigned to  
39 juvenile court, and other court personnel. Ethnic and cultural  
40 diversity training shall be provided annually so as to incorporate

1 cultural sensitivity and awareness into the daily operation of  
2 juvenile courts statewide;

3 (18) Authorize the use of closed circuit television and other  
4 electronic equipment in judicial proceedings. The administrator shall  
5 promulgate necessary standards and procedures and shall provide  
6 technical assistance to courts as required;

7 (19) Develop a Washington family law handbook in accordance with  
8 RCW 2.56.180;

9 (20) Administer state funds for improving the operation of the  
10 courts and provide support for court coordinating councils, under the  
11 direction of the board for judicial administration;

12 (21) Administer the family and juvenile court improvement grant  
13 program;

14 (22)(a) Administer and distribute amounts appropriated under RCW  
15 43.08.250(2) for district court judges' and qualifying elected  
16 municipal court judges' salary contributions. The administrator for  
17 the courts shall develop a distribution formula for these amounts  
18 that does not differentiate between district and elected municipal  
19 court judges.

20 (b) A city qualifies for state contribution of elected municipal  
21 court judges' salaries under (a) of this subsection if:

22 (i) The judge is serving in an elected position;

23 (ii) The city has established by ordinance that a full-time judge  
24 is compensated at a rate equivalent to at least ninety-five percent,  
25 but not more than one hundred percent, of a district court judge  
26 salary or for a part-time judge on a pro rata basis the same  
27 equivalent; and

28 (iii) The city has certified to the office of the administrator  
29 for the courts that the conditions in (b)(i) and (ii) of this  
30 subsection have been met;

31 (23) Subject to the availability of funds specifically  
32 appropriated therefor, assist courts in the development and  
33 implementation of language (~~(assistance)~~) access plans required under  
34 RCW 2.43.090.

35 **Sec. 12.** RCW 7.105.245 and 2021 c 215 s 33 are each amended to  
36 read as follows:

37 (1) Pursuant to chapter 2.42 RCW, in order to ensure that parties  
38 have meaningful access to the court, an interpreter shall be  
39 appointed for any party who is deaf, hard of hearing, deaf-blind, or

1 has a speech impairment and cannot readily understand or communicate  
2 in spoken language. Notwithstanding the provisions of chapter 2.42  
3 RCW, the court shall not:

4 (a) Appoint an interpreter who is not credentialed or duly  
5 qualified by the court to provide interpretation services; or

6 (b) Appoint a person to provide interpretation services if that  
7 person is serving as an advocate for the party.

8 (2) Pursuant to chapter 2.43 RCW, in order to ensure that parties  
9 have meaningful access to the court, an interpreter shall be  
10 appointed for any party who (~~cannot readily speak or understand the~~  
11 ~~English language~~) has limited English proficiency. Notwithstanding  
12 the provisions of chapter 2.43 RCW, the court shall not:

13 (a) Appoint an interpreter who is not credentialed or duly  
14 qualified by the court to provide interpretation services; or

15 (b) Appoint a person to provide interpretation services if that  
16 person is serving as an advocate for the party.

17 (3) Once an interpreter has been appointed for a party, the party  
18 shall no longer be required to make further requests for the  
19 appointment of an interpreter for subsequent hearings or proceedings.  
20 The clerk shall identify the party as a person who needs interpreter  
21 services and the clerk or the court administrator shall be  
22 responsible for ensuring that an interpreter is available for every  
23 subsequent hearing.

24 (4) The interpreter shall interpret for the party meeting with  
25 either counsel or court staff, or both, for the purpose of preparing  
26 forms and participating in the hearing and court-ordered assessments,  
27 and the interpreter shall sight translate any orders.

28 (5) The same interpreter shall not serve parties on both sides of  
29 the proceeding when not on the record, nor shall the interpreter  
30 appointed by the court for the proceeding be the same interpreter  
31 appointed for any court-ordered assessments, unless the court finds  
32 good cause on the record to do so because it is not possible to  
33 obtain more than one interpreter for the proceeding, or the safety of  
34 the litigants is not compromised, or any other reasons identified by  
35 the court.

36 (6) Courts shall make a private space available for parties,  
37 counsel, and/or court staff and interpreters to sight translate any  
38 written documents or to meet and confer.

1 (7) When a hearing is conducted through telephone, video, or  
2 other electronic means, the court must make appropriate arrangements  
3 to permit interpreters to serve the parties and the court as needed.

4 **Sec. 13.** RCW 13.04.043 and 1993 c 415 s 6 are each amended to  
5 read as follows:

6 The administrator of juvenile court shall obtain interpreters as  
7 needed consistent with the intent and practice of chapter 2.43 RCW,  
8 to enable ~~((non-English-speaking))~~ youth with limited English  
9 proficiency and their families to participate in detention,  
10 probation, or court proceedings and programs.

11 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 14.** RCW 2.43.040 and 2.43.080 are each  
12 recodified as sections in chapter 2.43 RCW.

13 **Sec. 15.** RCW 2.42.120 and 2008 c 291 s 2 are each amended to  
14 read as follows:

15 (1) If a hearing impaired person is a party or witness at any  
16 stage of a judicial or quasi-judicial proceeding in the state or in a  
17 political subdivision, including but not limited to civil and  
18 criminal court proceedings, grand jury proceedings, proceedings  
19 before a magistrate, juvenile proceedings, adoption proceedings,  
20 mental health commitment proceedings, and any proceeding in which a  
21 hearing impaired person may be subject to confinement or criminal  
22 sanction, the appointing authority shall appoint and pay for a  
23 qualified interpreter to interpret the proceedings.

24 (2) If the parent, guardian, or custodian of a juvenile brought  
25 before a court is hearing impaired, the appointing authority shall  
26 appoint and pay for a qualified interpreter to interpret the  
27 proceedings.

28 ~~((If a hearing impaired person participates in a program or~~  
29 ~~activity ordered by a court as part of the sentence or order of~~  
30 ~~disposition, required as part of a diversion agreement or deferred~~  
31 ~~prosecution program, or required as a condition of probation or~~  
32 ~~parole, the appointing authority shall appoint and pay for a~~  
33 ~~qualified interpreter to interpret exchange of information during the~~  
34 ~~program or activity.~~

35 ~~(4) If a law enforcement agency conducts a criminal investigation~~  
36 ~~involving the interviewing of a hearing impaired person, whether as a~~  
37 ~~victim, witness, or suspect, the appointing authority shall appoint~~

1 and pay for a qualified interpreter throughout the investigation.  
2 Whenever a law enforcement agency conducts a criminal investigation  
3 involving the interviewing of a minor child whose parent, guardian,  
4 or custodian is hearing impaired, whether as a victim, witness, or  
5 suspect, the appointing authority shall appoint and pay for a  
6 qualified interpreter throughout the investigation. No employee of  
7 the law enforcement agency who has responsibilities other than  
8 interpreting may be appointed as the qualified interpreter.

9 ~~(5)~~ If a hearing impaired person is arrested for an alleged  
10 violation of a criminal law the arresting officer or the officer's  
11 supervisor shall, at the earliest possible time, procure and arrange  
12 payment for a qualified interpreter for any notification of rights,  
13 warning, interrogation, or taking of a statement. No employee of the  
14 law enforcement agency who has responsibilities other than  
15 interpreting may be appointed as the qualified interpreter.

16 ~~(6))~~ Where it is the policy and practice of a court of this  
17 state or of a political subdivision to appoint and pay counsel for  
18 persons who are indigent, the appointing authority shall appoint and  
19 pay for a qualified interpreter for hearing impaired persons to  
20 facilitate communication with counsel in all phases of the  
21 preparation and presentation of the case.

22 ~~((7))~~ (4) Subject to the availability of funds specifically  
23 appropriated therefor, the administrative office of the courts shall  
24 reimburse the appointing authority for up to one-half of the payment  
25 to the interpreter where a qualified interpreter is appointed for a  
26 hearing impaired person by a judicial officer in a proceeding before  
27 a court under subsection (1) ~~((7))~~ or (2) ~~((7 or (3))~~) of this section  
28 in compliance with the provisions of RCW 2.42.130 and 2.42.170.

--- END ---