

No. 1982-253

AN ACT

SB 796

Amending Title 2 (Administrative Law and Procedure) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, providing interpreters for deaf persons in administrative proceedings.

The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania hereby enacts as follows:

Section 1. Title 2, act of November 25, 1970 (P.L.707, No.230), known as the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, is amended by adding a section to read:

§ 505.1. Interpreters for the deaf.

(a) Appointment.—In any proceeding before a Commonwealth agency in which a party is deaf the agency shall appoint an interpreter to assist the party throughout the proceeding.

(b) Oath.—The interpreter shall swear or affirm that he will make a true interpretation to the deaf person and that he will repeat the statements of the deaf person to the best of his ability.

(c) Definitions.—As used in this section the following words and phrases shall have the meanings given to them in this subsection:

“Deaf.” Persons who are deaf or whose hearing is so impaired that they are unable to understand or communicate the spoken English language.

“Interpreter.” A person qualified and trained to translate for or communicate with deaf persons. Any person certified by the National or Local Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf or similar registry shall be considered qualified for the purposes of this section.

Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.

APPROVED—The 10th day of December, A. D. 1982.

DICK THORNBURGH