

# STATE OF NEW YORK

916

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

## IN SENATE

(Prefiled)

January 8, 2025

Introduced by Sen. S. RYAN -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Judiciary

AN ACT to amend the judiciary law, in relation to requiring town and village courts compensate temporary interpreters for deaf or hard of hearing persons

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

1 Section 1. Section 387 of the judiciary law, as amended by chapter 15  
2 of the laws of 1975, is amended to read as follows:

3 § 387. Temporary appointment of interpreters. If the services of an  
4 interpreter be required in any court and there be no unemployed official  
5 interpreter to act therein, the court may appoint an interpreter to act  
6 temporarily in such court. Such interpreter shall before entering upon  
7 [~~his~~] such interpreter's duties file with the clerk of the court the  
8 constitutional oath of office. The court shall fix the compensation of  
9 such interpreter [~~at not more than twenty-five~~] a minimum of one hundred  
10 ten dollars per day for each day's actual attendance by direction of the  
11 presiding judge or justice and such compensation shall be paid from the  
12 court fund of the county upon the order of the court, provided, however,  
13 that if the compensation of the temporary interpreter is greater than  
14 one hundred ten dollars per day, the amount in excess of one hundred  
15 ten dollars shall be paid by the town or village where the court is  
16 located.

17 § 2. Subdivision 1 of section 390 of the judiciary law, as amended by  
18 chapter 272 of the laws of 2015, is amended to read as follows:

19 1. Whenever any deaf or hard of hearing person is a party to a legal  
20 proceeding of any nature, or a witness or juror or prospective juror  
21 therein, the court in all instances shall appoint a qualified interpret-  
22 er who is certified by a recognized national or New York state creden-  
23 tialing authority as approved by the chief administrator of the courts

EXPLANATION--Matter in italics (underscored) is new; matter in brackets  
[-] is old law to be omitted.

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1 to interpret the proceeding to, and the testimony of, such deaf or hard  
2 of hearing person; provided, however, where compliance with this section  
3 would cause unreasonable delay in court proceedings, the court shall be  
4 authorized to temporarily appoint an interpreter who is otherwise quali-  
5 fied to interpret the proceedings to, and the testimony of, such deaf or  
6 hard of hearing person until a certified interpreter is available. In  
7 any criminal action in a state-funded court, the court shall also  
8 appoint such an interpreter to interpret the proceedings to a deaf or  
9 hard of hearing person who is the victim of the crime or may appoint  
10 such interpreter for the deaf or hard of hearing members of the immedi-  
11 ate family (parent or spouse) of a victim of the crime when specifically  
12 requested to do so by such victim or family member. The fee for all such  
13 interpreting services shall be a charge upon the state at rates of  
14 compensation established by rule of the chief administrator; except that  
15 where such interpreting services are rendered in a justice court, the  
16 fee therefor shall be paid as provided by law in effect on July first,  
17 nineteen hundred ninety-one, and where temporary interpreter services  
18 are rendered, the fee therefor shall be paid as provided in section  
19 three hundred eighty-seven of this article.

20 § 3. This act shall take effect immediately.