STATE OF NEW YORK

1017

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

January 7, 2021

Introduced by M. of A. BRONSON, CLARK, LUNSFORD, MEEKS -- read once and referred to the Committee on Governmental Operations

AN ACT to amend the executive law, in relation to requiring sign language interpreters during live broadcast press conferences during a declared state of emergency

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

Section 1. The executive law is amended by adding a new section 29-l to read as follows:

§ 29-l. Declaration of emergency, broadcast requirements. Whenever the governor has declared a disaster emergency pursuant to section twenty-eight of this article, or the chief executive of the county, or where a county is wholly contained within a city, the chief executive of the city, has proclaimed a local state of emergency pursuant to section twenty-four of this article, the chief executive must provide an American Sign Language qualified interpreter who is certified by a recognized national or New York state credentialing authority at every live broadcast press conference during the declared state of emergency or local state of emergency. To the greatest extent possible, the chief executive shall ensure that the sign language interpreter shall be physically positioned in a manner that his or her face, body, arms and hands are visible in the video transmission of the press conference at all times.

§ 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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

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