

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL
No. 796

Session of
1981

INTRODUCED BY ZEMPRELLI, SCANLON AND ROSS, MAY 11, 1981

AS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES, AS AMENDED, NOVEMBER 16, 1982

AN ACT

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

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

6 Section 1. ~~Chapter 5~~ of Title 2, act of November 25, 1970 <—
7 (P.L.707, No.230), known as the Pennsylvania Consolidated
8 Statutes, is amended by adding a ~~subchapter~~ SECTION to read: <—

9 ~~CHAPTER 5~~ <—

10 ~~PRACTICE AND PROCEDURE~~

11 ~~* * *~~

12 ~~SUBCHAPTER C~~

13 ~~INTERPRETERS FOR THE DEAF~~

14 ~~Sec.~~

15 ~~561. Interpreters for the deaf.~~

16 ~~§ 561~~ 505.1. Interpreters for the deaf. <—

17 ~~(a) Proceedings before certain agencies~~ APPOINTMENT.--In any <—

1 proceeding before a Commonwealth agency, ~~an executive agency or~~ <—
2 ~~an independent agency~~ in which a party is deaf the agency shall
3 appoint an interpreter to assist ~~said~~ THE party throughout the <—
4 proceeding.

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

9 (c) Definitions.--As used in this section the following
10 words AND PHRASES shall have the meanings given to them in this <—
11 subsection:

12 "Deaf." Persons who are deaf or whose hearing is so impaired
13 that they are unable to understand or communicate the spoken
14 English language.

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

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