

1 A bill to be entitled

2 An act relating to interpreters for individuals who  
3 are deaf or hard of hearing; providing a directive to  
4 the Division of Law Revision and Information; creating  
5 s. 468.861, F.S.; providing a purpose; creating s.  
6 468.8611, F.S.; defining terms; creating s. 468.8612,  
7 F.S.; creating the Board of Interpreters for the Deaf  
8 and Hard of Hearing; providing board membership and  
9 terms; providing that ch. 455, F.S., relating to the  
10 activities of a board, applies to board members;  
11 creating s. 468.8613, F.S.; requiring an interpreter  
12 to apply for a license or permit within a specified  
13 timeframe; requiring the Department of Business and  
14 Professional Regulation to issue an initial license,  
15 permit, or provisional permit to an applicant who  
16 meets certain criteria; requiring licensees and  
17 permitholders to provide proof of the completion of  
18 specified continuing education requirements; requiring  
19 the department to issue a license, permit, or  
20 provisional permit to a holder of an active license or  
21 permit issued by another state or territory under  
22 certain circumstances; requiring background checks on  
23 an applicant for initial issuance of a license or  
24 permit; prohibiting the department from denying a  
25 license or permit to an applicant under certain  
26 circumstances; requiring the department to issue

27 renewals of licenses and permits under certain  
28 circumstances; creating s. 468.8614, F.S.; requiring  
29 an interpreting agency to register with the  
30 department; providing application requirements;  
31 creating s. 468.8615, F.S.; requiring an individual to  
32 have an active license or permit to serve as an  
33 interpreter; providing penalties; requiring an  
34 individual to elect active or inactive status at the  
35 time of license or permit renewal; requiring an  
36 individual to take certain actions in order to elect  
37 inactive status; authorizing the board to discipline  
38 an individual for an act or omission; directing the  
39 board to send notices to a licensee or permit holder  
40 before the expiration or cancellation of a license or  
41 permit; creating s. 468.8616, F.S.; requiring the  
42 department to charge fees; authorizing the board to  
43 earmark a specific amount from such fees for certain  
44 purposes; requiring that all moneys collected by the  
45 department from such fees be deposited into the  
46 Professional Regulation Trust Fund; authorizing the  
47 Legislature to appropriate any excess moneys from the  
48 trust fund to the General Revenue Fund; requiring the  
49 department to submit a proposed budget; creating s.  
50 468.8617, F.S.; prohibiting certain actions by  
51 individuals and entities; providing penalties;  
52 creating s. 468.8618, F.S.; authorizing the department

53 to issue and deliver a notice to cease and desist in  
 54 certain circumstances; creating s. 468.8619, F.S.;  
 55 providing applicability; creating s. 468.862, F.S.;  
 56 requiring the board and the department to adopt rules;  
 57 providing guidelines for the department rules;  
 58 amending s. 20.165, F.S.; providing that the board is  
 59 established within the Division of Professions;  
 60 conforming a provision to a change made by the act;  
 61 providing an effective date.

62  
 63 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

64  
 65 Section 1. The Division of Law Revision and Information is  
 66 directed to create part XVII of chapter 468, Florida Statutes,  
 67 consisting of ss. 468.861-468.862, Florida Statutes, to be  
 68 entitled "Interpreters for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing."

69 Section 2. Section 468.861, Florida Statutes, is created  
 70 to read:

71 468.861 Purpose.—The Legislature finds it necessary and in  
 72 the best interest of the public health, safety, and welfare to  
 73 regulate the profession of interpreters for individuals who are  
 74 deaf or hard of hearing.

75 Section 3. Section 468.8611, Florida Statutes, is created  
 76 to read:

77 468.8611 Definitions.—As used in this part, the term:

78 (1) "Board" means the Board of Interpreters for the Deaf

79 and Hard of Hearing.

80 (2) "Deaf interpreter" means an individual who is deaf or  
81 hard of hearing and who may be certified as an interpreter by  
82 the national Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf. A deaf  
83 interpreter may be needed when a deaf or hard of hearing client  
84 has a mode of communication that is so unique that it cannot be  
85 adequately addressed by an interpreter who is not also deaf or  
86 hard of hearing.

87 (3) "Deaf or hard of hearing" means having a documented  
88 hearing loss, and includes all of the following terms:

89 (a) "Deaf," which means having a severe and documented  
90 hearing loss that prevents an individual from processing speech  
91 and language through hearing, with or without amplification, and  
92 may require the individual to use sign language or other modes  
93 of communication to communicate with other individuals.

94 (b) "Deaf-blind," which means having a combined loss of  
95 vision and hearing which prevents an individual from using  
96 vision and hearing as a primary source for accessing information  
97 and for communicating with other individuals.

98 (c) "Hard of hearing," which means having a hearing loss  
99 or other auditory disabling conditions that may require an  
100 individual to use visual methods or assistive listening devices  
101 to communicate with other individuals.

102 (d) "Oral deaf," which means being deaf or hard of hearing  
103 but able to use oral speech to communicate with other  
104 individuals.

105 (4) "Department" means the Department of Business and  
 106 Professional Regulation.

107 (5) "Interpreter" means an individual who provides, either  
 108 face-to-face or remotely via video technology, language  
 109 equivalency between a hearing individual and an individual who  
 110 is deaf or hard of hearing.

111 (6) "Interpreting agency" means an entity that provides  
 112 qualified interpreter services and employs or contracts with  
 113 qualified interpreters.

114 (7) "Resident" means an individual who has a principal  
 115 place of domicile in this state.

116 (8) "Sign language" means a continuum of visual-gestural  
 117 language and communication systems that employ manual signs made  
 118 with the hands and other movements, including facial expressions  
 119 and postures of the body. The term includes, but is not limited  
 120 to, American Sign Language, Signing Exact English, or other  
 121 visual communication methods.

122 Section 4. Section 468.8612, Florida Statutes, is created  
 123 to read:

124 468.8612 Board of Interpreters for the Deaf and Hard of  
 125 Hearing.—

126 (1) The Board of Interpreters for the Deaf and Hard of  
 127 Hearing is created within the department. Members shall be  
 128 appointed by the Governor upon recommendation of the Florida  
 129 Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf and the Florida  
 130 Association of the Deaf, subject to confirmation by the Senate.

131 After the initial appointments of the board, each subsequent  
132 appointment of a member shall be for a 4-year term. A vacancy on  
133 the board shall be filled for the remaining portion of the term  
134 in the same manner as the original appointment. A member may not  
135 serve more than two consecutive 4-year terms or more than 11  
136 years total on the board.

137 (2) The board shall consist of the following 11 members:

138 (a) Six individuals primarily engaged in business as sign  
139 language interpreters, at least one of whom is an educational  
140 interpreter, at least one of whom is an interpreter who works  
141 via remote video technology, and at least one of whom is deaf.

142 (b) Three deaf or hard-of-hearing individuals who are not,  
143 and have never been, members or practitioners of a profession  
144 regulated by the board.

145 (c) One individual primarily engaged in business as an  
146 interpreting agency representative.

147 (d) One individual who is not, and has never been, a  
148 member or practitioner of a profession regulated by the board  
149 and who does not meet the qualifications in paragraph (a),  
150 paragraph (b), or paragraph (c).

151 (3) To achieve staggered terms, the initial appointments  
152 shall be as follows:

153 (a) One member appointed under paragraph (2)(b), the  
154 member appointed under paragraph (2)(c), and the member  
155 appointed under paragraph (2)(d), for initial 2-year terms.

156 (b) Two members appointed under paragraph (2)(a) and two

157 members appointed under paragraph (2)(b), for initial 3-year  
158 terms.

159 (c) Four members appointed under paragraph (2)(a) for  
160 initial 4-year terms.

161 (4) To be eligible to serve, each member who is an  
162 interpreter must be licensed or have been issued a permit by the  
163 department to operate as an interpreter in the category under  
164 which the member is appointed, be actively practicing in the  
165 profession, and have been practicing for at least 5 consecutive  
166 years before the date of appointment. Each appointee must be a  
167 resident. The initial board appointees are exempt from the  
168 requirement that they hold a license or permit before  
169 appointment, but must be actively practicing in the profession  
170 and have been practicing for at least 5 consecutive years before  
171 the date of appointment.

172 (5) The provisions of chapter 455 relating to activities  
173 of a board apply to the board members.

174 Section 5. Section 468.8613, Florida Statutes, is created  
175 to read:

176 468.8613 License; permit; continuing education.—

177 (1) Effective May 1, 2016, an individual may not interpret  
178 for the deaf or hard of hearing in this state without first  
179 receiving a license or permit under this section. All  
180 interpreters must submit an application to the department for a  
181 license, a permit, or a provisional permit within 90 days after  
182 the effective date of this act.

183       (2) The department shall, upon receipt of the applicable  
184 fee and proof of credentials, issue an initial license, an  
185 initial permit, or an initial provisional permit to an  
186 individual who is at least 18 years of age, has a high school  
187 diploma or equivalent, and meets the following requirements:

188       (a) License.—A license indicates that the licenseholder is  
189 considered to meet or exceed minimum qualifications as an  
190 interpreter for the deaf or hard of hearing. A license may be  
191 renewed every 2 years with no limit on the number of renewals.  
192 Licensees must provide proof, in the form established by the  
193 department subject to chapter 455, that the licensee has  
194 completed at least 40 hours of continuing education for each 2-  
195 year license period. At least 30 hours of the 40-hour  
196 requirement must be related to the profession of interpreting.  
197 Licensees also must comply with standards relating to continuing  
198 education methods, categories, and sponsors established by the  
199 national Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf. Continuing  
200 education requirements may be prorated for new licensees as  
201 provided in s. 455.2124.

202       1. Generalist license.—An interpreter who holds a valid  
203 generalist license may work in all community or educational  
204 settings. To qualify for an initial generalist license, an  
205 applicant must receive:

206       a. A certification, other than a K-12 education  
207 certification, from the national Registry of Interpreters for  
208 the Deaf; or

209 b. Other equivalent interpreter credentials as determined  
210 by the board.

211 2. Educational license.—An interpreter who holds a valid  
212 educational license is limited to working in K-12 educational  
213 settings and at official school-sponsored activities. To qualify  
214 for an initial educational license, an applicant must receive:

215 a. A passing score on the Educational Interpreter  
216 Performance Assessment written test and a 4.0-5.0 on the  
217 Educational Interpreter Performance Assessment performance test;  
218 or

219 b. A K-12 educational certification from the national  
220 Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf.

221 (b) Permit.—A permit indicates that the permitholder is  
222 progressing toward becoming a qualified, licensed interpreter  
223 for the deaf or hard of hearing. A permit may be renewed once  
224 for a total of 4 years. Permitholders must provide proof, in the  
225 form established by the department subject to chapter 455, that  
226 the permitholder has completed at least 40 hours of continuing  
227 education for each 2-year permit period. At least 30 hours of  
228 the 40-hour requirement must be related to the profession of  
229 interpreting. Permitholders also must comply with standards  
230 relating to continuing education methods, categories, and  
231 sponsors established by the national Registry of Interpreters  
232 for the Deaf. Continuing education requirements may be prorated  
233 for new permitholders according to s. 455.2124.

234 1. Generalist permit.—An interpreter who holds a valid

235 generalist permit may work in any community or educational  
236 setting according to his or her level of skill. To qualify for  
237 an initial generalist permit, an applicant must receive:

238 a. A Quality Assurance Screening level 1, level 2, or  
239 level 3 by the Florida Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf;

240 b. A degree from an interpreter educational program at an  
241 accredited educational institution or an educational equivalency  
242 application approved by the national Registry of Interpreters  
243 for the Deaf, and a passing score on the National Interpreter  
244 Certification knowledge exam;

245 c. Twenty documented hours of interpreter training, 16 of  
246 which must be interpreter skill development; a rating of  
247 "Superior" or "Advanced Plus" on the Sign Communication  
248 Proficiency Interview or a level 4 or higher on the American  
249 Sign Language Proficiency Interview; and a passing score on the  
250 National Interpreter Certification knowledge exam; or

251 d. Other equivalent interpreter credentials as determined  
252 by the board.

253 2. Generalist permit for deaf interpreters.—A deaf  
254 interpreter who holds a valid generalist permit for deaf  
255 interpreters may work in any community or educational setting  
256 according to his or her level of skill. To qualify for an  
257 initial generalist permit, an applicant who is deaf must  
258 receive:

259 a. A passing score on the Certified Deaf Interpreter  
260 written exam of the national Registry of Interpreters for the

261 Deaf, and a rating of "Superior" or "Advanced Plus" on the Sign  
 262 Communication Proficiency Interview or level 4 or higher on the  
 263 American Sign Language Proficiency Interview;

264 b. Twenty documented hours of interpreter training, 16 of  
 265 which must be specific to the Certified Deaf Interpreter exam of  
 266 the national Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, and a rating  
 267 of "Superior" or "Advanced Plus" on the Sign Communication  
 268 Proficiency Interview or a level 4 or higher on the American  
 269 Sign Language Proficiency Interview; or

270 c. Other equivalent interpreter credentials as determined  
 271 by the board.

272 3. Educational permit.—An interpreter who holds a valid  
 273 educational permit is limited to working in K-12 educational  
 274 settings and at official school-sponsored activities according  
 275 to his or her level of skill. To qualify for an initial  
 276 educational permit, an applicant must receive:

277 a. An Educational Interpreter Evaluation level I, level  
 278 II, or level III by the Florida Registry of Interpreters for the  
 279 Deaf;

280 b. A passing score on the Educational Interpreter  
 281 Performance Assessment written test and a 3.0-3.9 on the  
 282 Educational Interpreter Performance Assessment performance test;  
 283 or

284 c. A degree from an interpreter education program at an  
 285 accredited educational institution or an educational equivalency  
 286 application approved by the national Registry of Interpreters

287 for the Deaf, and a passing score on the Educational Interpreter  
288 Performance Assessment written test.

289 (c) Provisional permit.—A provisional permit is intended  
290 to allow those individuals working as interpreters at the time  
291 of the effective date of this act to have sufficient time to  
292 gain appropriate credentials and qualify for a license or  
293 permit. Upon receipt of a completed application and the  
294 appropriate fee, the department shall issue a nonrenewable  
295 provisional permit to an interpreter who does not otherwise meet  
296 the requirements for a license or permit and is primarily  
297 employed as an interpreter upon the effective date of this act  
298 or has completed at least 100 hours of documented employment as  
299 an interpreter in the 12 months immediately preceding the  
300 effective date of this act. The provisional permit is valid for  
301 2 years and may not be renewed. An applicant who wishes to  
302 obtain a provisional permit must apply within 90 days after the  
303 effective date of this act.

304 (3) The department shall issue an initial license or  
305 initial permit to an applicant who is at least 18 years of age,  
306 has a high school diploma or equivalent, and holds an active  
307 license or permit issued by another state or territory of the  
308 United States to practice as an interpreter for the deaf or hard  
309 of hearing if:

310 (a) The criteria for issuance in that state or territory  
311 are substantially equivalent to those for a license or permit  
312 issued under this part; or

313 (b) That state or territory has a reciprocal agreement  
314 with the board for the recognition of a license or permit issued  
315 for interpreters for the deaf or hard of hearing.

316 (4) (a) An applicant for initial issuance of a license or  
317 permit must submit to a criminal history record check and  
318 fingerprinting pursuant to s. 455.213.

319 (b) If an applicant has been convicted of a felony, the  
320 department may deny the application based upon the severity of  
321 the crime, the relationship of the crime to interpreting, or the  
322 potential for public harm. When determining whether to approve  
323 or deny a license or permit, the department shall also consider  
324 the length of time since the commission of the crime and the  
325 rehabilitation of the applicant. The department may not deny a  
326 license or permit to an applicant based solely on a felony  
327 conviction or the applicant's failure to provide proof of  
328 restoration of civil rights.

329 (5) The department shall issue license and permit renewals  
330 pursuant to s. 455.213.

331 Section 6. Section 468.8614, Florida Statutes, is created  
332 to read:

333 468.8614 Interpreting agency registration.—

334 (1) Effective May 1, 2016, an interpreting agency may not  
335 operate until it is registered with the department.

336 (2) An applicant for registration as an interpreting  
337 agency in this state must submit to the department on forms  
338 provided by the department a registration application

339 accompanied by any relevant information requested by the  
340 department and the application fee.

341 (3) An applicant for registration as an interpreting  
342 agency which has submitted a registration application, all  
343 relevant information requested by the department, the  
344 application fee, and all other fees required by this part may  
345 coordinate interpreter services, pending approval of its  
346 registration application.

347 (4) The department may register the applicant as an  
348 interpreting agency upon receipt of the completed registration  
349 application forms, all relevant information that the department  
350 has requested, and the application fee.

351 Section 7. Section 468.8615, Florida Statutes, is created  
352 to read:

353 468.8615 Inactive and delinquent status; renewal and  
354 cancellation notices.-

355 (1) Effective May 1, 2016, an individual may not serve as  
356 an interpreter for the deaf or hard of hearing unless he or she  
357 holds an active license or permit issued under s. 468.8613. An  
358 individual who interprets without an active license or permit is  
359 subject to penalties as provided in s. 468.8617.

360 (2) At the time of licensure or permit renewal, a licensee  
361 or permitholder shall elect active or inactive status. A  
362 licensee or permitholder who elects inactive status must  
363 complete the required application forms and pay the required  
364 fees.

365       (3) The holder of an inactive license or inactive permit  
366 may convert the license or permit to active status at any time  
367 if he or she meets the requirements for active status, pays any  
368 additional fees necessary to equal the fees imposed on an active  
369 status licensee or permitholder, pays any applicable late fees,  
370 and meets one renewal cycle of all continuing education  
371 requirements that the board prescribes for active status. The  
372 department may not require the holder of an inactive license or  
373 inactive permit to complete more than one renewal cycle of  
374 continuing education in order to reactivate the license or  
375 permit.

376       (4) If a licensee or permitholder does not renew an active  
377 or inactive license before its expiration, he or she must apply  
378 with a completed application, as determined by the department,  
379 for reinstatement of active or inactive status within 2 years  
380 after the date of expiration. Failure by a licensee or  
381 permitholder to restore active or inactive status before the end  
382 of the 2 years following the expiration of the license or permit  
383 renders the license or permit void, and any subsequent attempt  
384 to obtain a license or permit shall be treated as an initial  
385 application.

386       (5) The board may discipline a licensee or permitholder  
387 for an act or omission in the scope of employment.

388       (6) The department shall send to the licensee or  
389 permitholder at his or her address the following:

390       (a) A renewal notice, at least 60 days before the

391 expiration of the license or permit.

392 (b) A pending cancellation notice, if the license or  
 393 permit has expired.

394 Section 8. Section 468.8616, Florida Statutes, is created  
 395 to read:

396 468.8616 Fees.—

397 (1) The department shall charge a fee for an initial  
 398 license or initial permit, an initial license or initial permit  
 399 application, a license or permit renewal, a license or permit  
 400 renewal application, an interpreting agency registration  
 401 application, and the recordmaking and recordkeeping associated  
 402 with these applications and registrations as provided under s.  
 403 455.219.

404 (a) The application fees may not exceed \$200.

405 (b) The initial license fee or initial permit fee may not  
 406 exceed \$400.

407 (c) The renewal fee may not exceed \$400.

408 (d) The department shall impose a fee for renewal of an  
 409 inactive license or permit to maintain inactive status, which  
 410 may not exceed \$100.

411 (e) If a licensee, permitholder, or interpreting agency  
 412 applies for a license or permit renewal, regardless of whether  
 413 active or inactive status is elected, after the expiration of  
 414 the license or permit, the department shall impose on the  
 415 applicant:

416 1. A late fee; and

417 2. An additional fee that does not exceed the applicable  
418 renewal fee and that reasonably reflects the costs of processing  
419 a request to change a status at a time other than the expiration  
420 of a license or permit.

421 (f) The department shall establish fees that are adequate  
422 to ensure the continued operation of the board in accordance  
423 with s. 455.204.

424 (2) In addition to the initial application fees and  
425 renewal application fees imposed under subsection (1), a fee of  
426 \$5 shall be assessed by the department at the time of initial  
427 application or renewal which shall be used to fund projects  
428 relating to interpreting for the deaf or hard of hearing or to  
429 continuing education programs offered to interpreters for the  
430 deaf or hard of hearing in this state. The board, with  
431 concurrence of the department, may earmark \$5 of the current  
432 licensure or permitting fee for this purpose if the board is not  
433 in a deficit and has a reasonable cash balance. At the time the  
434 funds are transferred, the board shall advise the department on  
435 the most needed areas of research or continuing education, based  
436 on significant changes in industry practices or this part or on  
437 the most common types of consumer complaints. The board's advice  
438 is not binding on the department. The department shall report to  
439 the board in October of each year, summarizing the allocation of  
440 the funds by institution and summarizing the new projects funded  
441 and the status of previously funded projects.

442 (3) All moneys collected by the department from fees

443 authorized under this part shall be deposited into the  
444 Professional Regulation Trust Fund and shall be applied in  
445 accordance with ss. 215.37 and 455.219. The Legislature may  
446 appropriate any excess moneys from this fund to the General  
447 Revenue Fund.

448 (4) The department, with the advice of the board, shall  
449 prepare and submit a proposed budget in accordance with law.

450 Section 9. Section 468.8617, Florida Statutes, is created  
451 to read:

452 468.8617 Prohibitions; penalties.—

453 (1) A person may not:

454 (a) Engage in the practice of interpreting without an  
455 active license or permit issued by the department pursuant to  
456 this part.

457 (b) Own, operate, maintain, open, establish, conduct, or  
458 have charge of, alone or with another individual, an  
459 interpreting agency that is not registered under this part or in  
460 which an individual who does not have a valid license or permit  
461 performs interpreting services.

462 (c) Use public funds to employ or contract with  
463 interpreters who do not hold a valid license or permit issued  
464 under this part.

465 (d) Obtain or attempt to obtain a license, permit, or  
466 registration through an offer of money, other than the required  
467 fee, or any other thing of value or by fraudulent  
468 misrepresentation.

469 (e) Use or attempt to use a license or permit that has  
470 been suspended or revoked to perform interpreting services.

471 (2) When the board finds any licensee or permit holder  
472 guilty of the grounds specified in s. 455.227(1), except  
473 paragraph (1)(d) or paragraph (1)(e), or of any grounds  
474 specified in this part, including a violation of this part which  
475 occurred before obtaining a license or permit, the board may  
476 enter an order imposing one or more of the penalties in s.  
477 455.227(2) and recover the costs associated with investigation  
478 and prosecution as provided under s. 455.227(3).

479 Section 10. Section 468.8618, Florida Statutes, is created  
480 to read:

481 468.8618 Unregulated practice of interpreter or  
482 interpreting agency; cease and desist notice.—When the  
483 department has probable cause to believe that an individual who  
484 is not licensed or permitted by the department or an  
485 interpreting agency that is not registered by the department has  
486 violated any provision of this part, or any rule adopted  
487 pursuant to this part, the department may issue and deliver to  
488 the individual or the interpreting agency a notice to cease and  
489 desist from the violation in accordance with s. 455.228.

490 Section 11. Section 468.8619, Florida Statutes, is created  
491 to read:

492 468.8619 Applicability.—This part does not apply to:  
493 (1) A student or intern who is completing his or her  
494 required practicum hours and is practicing under the direction

495 of an interpreter who holds a valid license or permit.

496 (2) An individual interpreting to or from foreign sign or  
 497 foreign spoken languages for which a national certification exam  
 498 does not exist.

499 (3) An individual who interprets only in religious  
 500 services or events.

501 (4) An individual who interprets in informal settings  
 502 between family and friends.

503 (5) An appointing authority, pursuant to s. 395.1041,  
 504 which uses an unlicensed interpreter who does not meet the  
 505 requirements of this part in an emergency situation if:

506 (a) The decision was made in the best medical or legal  
 507 judgment of the appointing authority;

508 (b) A life-threatening emergency situation exists; and

509 (c) All reasonable efforts have been exhausted by the  
 510 appointing authority to locate a licensed interpreter from  
 511 within a 60-mile radius, and documentation to that effect is  
 512 provided to the department upon request.

513 (6) An individual during a state or national emergency if  
 514 the individual is facilitating communication between a first  
 515 responder and an individual who is deaf or hard of hearing until  
 516 an interpreter holding a valid license or permit is found.

517 (7) Other situations as determined by the board.

518 Section 12. Section 468.862, Florida Statutes, is created  
 519 to read:

520 468.862 Rulemaking.—

521       (1) The board shall adopt rules to administer the  
 522 provisions of this part which confer duties upon it.

523       (2) The department shall adopt rules to administer the  
 524 provisions of this part which confer duties upon it. The rules  
 525 must include, but are not limited to, rules that:

526       (a) Specify the procedures for the registration of  
 527 interpreting agencies that have been registered or licensed and  
 528 are practicing in another state that has registration or license  
 529 standards substantially similar to, equivalent to, or more  
 530 stringent than the standards of this state.

531       (b) Govern the registration and operation of interpreting  
 532 agencies and the registration application and approval process.

533       (c) Govern the process for renewal of registration for  
 534 interpreting agencies.

535       Section 13. Paragraph (a) of subsection (4) and subsection  
 536 (5) of section 20.165, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

537       20.165 Department of Business and Professional  
 538 Regulation.—There is created a Department of Business and  
 539 Professional Regulation.

540       (4) (a) The following boards and programs are established  
 541 within the Division of Professions:

542       1. Board of Architecture and Interior Design, created  
 543 under part I of chapter 481.

544       2. Florida Board of Auctioneers, created under part VI of  
 545 chapter 468.

546       3. Barbers' Board, created under chapter 476.

- 547 4. Florida Building Code Administrators and Inspectors  
 548 Board, created under part XII of chapter 468.
- 549 5. Construction Industry Licensing Board, created under  
 550 part I of chapter 489.
- 551 6. Board of Cosmetology, created under chapter 477.
- 552 7. Electrical Contractors' Licensing Board, created under  
 553 part II of chapter 489.
- 554 8. Board of Employee Leasing Companies, created under part  
 555 XI of chapter 468.
- 556 9. Board of Landscape Architecture, created under part II  
 557 of chapter 481.
- 558 10. Board of Pilot Commissioners, created under chapter  
 559 310.
- 560 11. Board of Professional Engineers, created under chapter  
 561 471.
- 562 12. Board of Professional Geologists, created under  
 563 chapter 492.
- 564 13. Board of Veterinary Medicine, created under chapter  
 565 474.
- 566 14. Home inspection services licensing program, created  
 567 under part XV of chapter 468.
- 568 15. Mold-related services licensing program, created under  
 569 part XVI of chapter 468.
- 570 16. Board of Interpreters for the Deaf and Hard of  
 571 Hearing, created under part XVII of chapter 468.
- 572 (5) The members of each board established pursuant to

573 subsection (4) shall be appointed by the Governor, subject to  
574 confirmation by the Senate. Consumer members on the board shall  
575 be appointed pursuant to subsection (6). After the initial  
576 appointments of the board, each subsequent appointment ~~members~~  
577 shall be ~~appointed~~ for 4-year terms, and such terms shall expire  
578 on October 31. However, a term of less than 4 years may be  
579 utilized to ensure that:

580 (a) No more than two members' terms expire during the same  
581 calendar year for boards consisting of seven or eight members.

582 (b) No more than 3 members' terms expire during the same  
583 calendar year for boards consisting of 9 to 12 members.

584 (c) No more than 5 members' terms expire during the same  
585 calendar year for boards consisting of 13 or more members.

586

587 A member whose term has expired shall continue to serve on  
588 the board until such time as a replacement is appointed. A  
589 vacancy on the board shall be filled for the unexpired portion  
590 of the term in the same manner as the original appointment. No  
591 member may serve for more than the remaining portion of a  
592 previous member's unexpired term, plus two consecutive 4-year  
593 terms of the member's own appointment thereafter.

594 Section 14. This act shall take effect February 1, 2016.