

Independent LA Licensure Task Force Report on Town Hall Meetings  
06 October 2008

This report is a compilation of the comments made during the Town Hall Meetings regarding the Louisiana Sign Language Interpreter Practice Act – Draft #8. Breakdown of attendees is as follows: 64 Attendees (signed in); 45 Surveys (completed); 70% certified; 80% hearing; 60% degreed; <1% Deaf

**Summary comments made during the Town Meetings May-July 2008. Reference: Louisiana Sign Language Interpreter Practice Act – Draft #8**

Sec #	Section Name	#	Comments / Questions	Draft # 8 Line # xx	Response / Action
§3701.	Legislative purpose	1	Need more than a Board	40	
§3702.	Short title				
§3703	Definitions	2	Should read: ‘...licensed by the state Board’	50	
		3	‘Specialist’ is not mentioned in the document	61	
§3704.	LA Board for SL Interpreters	4	What (if any) governmental agency is this associated with? And if none, then wouldn’t it be advisable to do so in order to utilize their resources and input?	113	
		5	Typo: ‘One Licensure Sign Language Interpreters	127	
		6	Wording needs to be consistent	129/133	
		7	Will there be a problem without a Deaf interpreter? Will a Deaf person be on the Board who is not an interpreter?	131-133	
		8	After the term, submit resume to the Licensure Board?	152	
		9	Is Board LRID board or members? Or licensure board? (x3)	154	
§3705.	Board; meetings; powers	10	Will policy changes be a membership vote or only the Board has the power?	161-164	
		11	Why does the Board have the power to deny, approve, revoke, suspend and renew the license for Interpreter?	165-169	
		12	Why does the Board have power to handle money or training? (x3)	175-177	
		13	What is R.S. 37:2714(B)	175	
		14	Explain what kind of professional contracts. Will they contract out to collect fees?	182-183	
		15	What is RS: 36:3714?	182	
		16	Does the Board issue for each state?	185-186	
§3706.	Qualifications: Licensed Sign Language Interpreters	17	With licensure, will interpreters have to get malpractice insurance like other professions? (x2)		
		18	Will there be a criminal background check?		
		19	Will schools get away with hiring para’s as interpreters?		
		20	18 is too young (x3) 21 (seems as if it would provide for <u>some</u> life experience)	190	
		21	Is this a moot point? RID membership takes care of that	191	
		22	NIC / EIPA - How will it be determined which test as proof?	193	
		23	Do we have to be RID for EIPA to be considered /valid? (x2)	193	

<b>Summary comments made during the Town Meetings May-July 2008. Reference: Louisiana Sign Language Interpreter Practice Act – Draft #8</b>					
Sec #	Section Name	#	Comments / Questions	Draft # 8 Line # xx	Response / Action
		24	Who are the national certified agencies and will it be recognized? (x2)	193	
		25	Will the EIPA be recognized? It s recognized by a national board as a sound certification (x3)	193-194	
		26	Will policy be written and voted prior to passage of Board?	194	
		27	What about interpreters in the educational setting? Suggestion: 'Any person providing services in the following situations: community, education, legal, medical, etc.' Include specifically school systems (x2)	196	
§3707.	Qualification: Sign Language Interpreter Intern	28	Wording should match Line 187	204	
		29	18 is too young (x2)	207	
		21	(seems as if it would provide for <u>some</u> life experience)		
		30	Add ' <b>be a member of RID</b> '	209	
		31	Include the word ' <b>written</b> ' examination	210	
		32	Is the knowledge exam the EIPA and/or NIC?	210	
		33	Renumber second (3) to <b>(4)</b> & (4) to <b>(5)</b>	213/216	
		34	How do you determine 'English proficiency?' Will there be a 'team' to do an English diagnostic assessment? (x2)	213	
		35	Instead of an English proficiency component, why not an EIPA score for provisional intern (sign component) (x2)	213	
		36	How long will a person be permitted to stay as an Intern/Provisional? (x5) 'Don't blink'	217	
		37	Who can be a mentor to an Intern?	219	
		38	Define jobs intern can and cannot do	219	
		39	How are years interpreters working in a mentor program covered?	219	
		40	SL Intern should work under the <b>direct</b> supervision of a licensed sign language interpreter.' Meaning the licensed interpreter is 'on the job site'	219	
§3708.	License required	41	What is the time from passage until violation? (x3)		
		42	Will licenses be concurrent with national certification: (i.e. 2 yrs left in cycle=2 yr license; new cycle=4 yr license period/fee		
		43	Is it every year, every 5 years? What is the time period?		
		44	What does 'license is property of the Board mean?	226-227	
§3709.	Application	45	Is the 'compliance hearing' by the same Board that rejected the application?	233	
§3710	Examination/s	46	Will the policy be determined before this Board is developed?	236	
		47	What examinations will be required? Will there be a study	236	

<b>Summary comments made during the Town Meetings May-July 2008. Reference: Louisiana Sign Language Interpreter Practice Act – Draft #8</b>					
Sec #	Section Name	#	Comments / Questions	Draft # 8 Line # xx	Response / Action
			guide?		
		48	Change: test to be given provided	237	
		49	If you have to wait 1 year to retake, is there a way/process to continue working while waiting to retake?	237	
		50	How will this be done?	237	
		51	Add: examination/s <b>provider</b>	240	
§3711.	Licensure by reciprocity or endorsement	52	Need explanation	250-253	
		53	Clarify reciprocity and provisional licenses for out-of-town interpreters	257-264	
		54	There are companies with staff interpreters or out-of-state agencies who bring in out-of-state interpreters for conferences and meetings. How will this be policed? Will it be policed or mentioned in this proposed legislation?		
§3712.	Continuing education for license and provisional license renewal	55	Is the Board responsible to control continuing education? Does the Board have the power to change policy?	270-271	
§3713.	Rights and privileges	56	Why are abbreviations needed? (LSLI)	278	
§3714.	Fees	57	Why have an annual fee? Follow keeping certification current as long as it is current we're good to go! (x2)		
		58	Because of yearly fees, they are already scarce and are needed every where besides schools. It will be a hardship.		
		59	Because I am a certified nationally and would prefer not to pay more \$FEES\$ and adhere to more CEUs.		
		60	How often must we renew the license?		
		61	How much are licensure fees in other states that have it?		
		62	Fees are for the license, not examination	285	
§3715.	Disciplinary action; hearing; procedures; appeal	63	Add a requirement to notify upon certification revocation		
		64	Who pays fees for the interpreting services?	310	
		65	'before the board and a <b>decision rendered</b>	313	
§3716.	Privileged communications	66	Why is this section included in the law?	324	
§3717.	Discrimination	67	Include ' <b>sexual orientation</b> '	350	
§3718.	Violations; penalties	68	Will the Board have anonymous reporting?		
		69	How does this Law police interpreters without a license?		
		70	Look into other licenses' penalties...rationale... (i.e. nurse)		
		71	Make wording consistent with 361 ('revoked..')	355	
		72	Add " ...imply or state that <b>he/she</b> is a...'	356	
		73	Add: 'To assist an <b>unlicensed</b> individual'	366	
§3719.	Injunctive proceedings	74	My concern is the level of liability associated with this certification. How do we encourage increased LEA participation as every district will be affected (participation at		

**Summary comments made during the Town Meetings May-July 2008. Reference: Louisiana Sign Language Interpreter Practice Act – Draft #8**

Sec #	Section Name	#	Comments / Questions	Draft # 8 Line # xx	Response / Action
			the authorizing stage)		
§3720.	Exclusions	75	Where do ITP students fit? Where are their qualifications outlined? Are they 'Interns?		
		76	Will the Deaf persons have the right to waive the use of a Licensed interpreter or any agency provided interpreter over non-certified family members? (x 2)		
		77	Make exclusions for educational interpreters b/c teachers are not licensed		
		78	Who are subsidiary workers?	390-393	
		79	Define 'emergency situations'	406	
§3721.	Protected action and communication				

Below are other comments that relate to this document.

- Seems we are supporting what we are supposed to be preventing
- Shouldn't there be a lawyer consulted to clarify legal jargon
- Seems redundant, do not see the need to pay another fee. Certification is already sufficient – licensure is not necessary
- ADA Law already provides recourses
- Look at other states who have implemented this licensure requirement. Have their number of interpreters greatly increased and then raised a little or was the final # of interpreters stronger than before – or lower, or what? What was their long-term result of setting up licensure
- The more informed say that the verbage of the existing laws need to be redone
- Those who have degrees get them before we entered the sign language field and they are usually not related to sign language. They are educationally useful, but not related to our field. The best interpreters are mostly parents of deaf students who have struggled through their sign language education. Or CODAs.
- Definitions / language in the document is not clear. (x5)
- I like the idea of being considered even more professional comparing to a doctor or lawyer, nurse, etc.) than with just being certified. At the same time it allows one to set their own fees and not have to follow a state rate!
- Don't want to force experiences teachers to become interpreters. Out parish would do that to save \$ and have teacher/interpreter. They could flip-flop you and still pay you one salary, but use you as their chess pawn where they want you. Itinerant teachers do not work with Deaf students who use sign. These students are oral communications therefore the required sign language classes we are required to take to become certified as 'deaf ed teachers' these skills have often grown rusty and out dated. Your position becomes terminated, your put into a deaf ed classroom. Will you be required to then get 'certified' as interpreters, as well as deaf ed educator? Will there be a grace period?

Below are other comments that relate to this document. (continued)

**Summary comments made during the Town Meetings May-July 2008. Reference: Louisiana Sign Language Interpreter Practice Act – Draft #8**

Sec #	Section Name	#	Comments / Questions	Draft # 8 Line # xx	Response / Action
-------	--------------	---	----------------------	------------------------	-------------------

- In the instance that an itinerant teacher is serving to train a teacher to sign with a student, and the itinerant must interpret what the student is saying to the classroom teacher, how will the itinerant teacher be impacted by this act? How would an itinerant teacher be effect by going into the classroom for the deaf and needs to become certified to interpret?
- How does this effect someone interpreting (voicing) for a hearing person (non-verbal, autistic, etc.) who is not deaf or hard of hearing.
- I find this intimidating for someone coming into the interpreting field.
- Can Speech Therapist or others who work with Deaf and know signing need a licensed interpreter in the class?
- I am opposed to the proposed Sign Language Interpreter Practice Act. I believe it puts power of the professional into a small group of individuals' control. We already have RID certification as well as others that are well respected and recognized such as BEI and EIPA. I think we should simply review interpreters' credentials and perhaps put some minimum standards on certain types of interpreting such as in the medical and legal areas.

I think that a person should not be able to call themselves an "interpreter" until they have passed a certification instrument that deems them to be an actual qualified interpreter. However, I do not agree with a Board or Committee to be established that will oversee this process. I have been comfortable with the Louisiana Commission for the Deaf handling this process. Perhaps we should lobby for a full-time interpreter education, mentorship and certification coordinator for the LCD office that would be an advocate and liaison for interpreters, rather than creating more red tape of Boards or Commissions and more strenuous requirements on interpreters who are passing and maintaining their national certifications already. The burden on interpreters to comply with these standards on the national level is already sufficient and should be simply recognized at the state level.

It is my understanding that only a very small group of interpreters are supporting this agenda and that the people who are supporting it are the ones who hope to be in control at some level. Seems to me like this could be a conflict of interest. If something like this was to be passed, I would hope that those that worked toward establishing this effort are then banned from being able to sit on the Board or Commission for a sufficient period of time in order that no appearance of wrongdoing is given.

I agree that standards need to be put into place for interpreters and that people who are not interpreters should not be holding themselves out as an interpreter because doing so could be jeopardizing another person's life, livelihood, relationships, etc. However, I just don't want to see the hard working interpreters who have achieved certification and who are diligently working to improve and maintain their CEUs, etc. be penalized with more fees, more requirements, more paperwork, etc. than what is already required at the national level.