

GOVERNMENT CODE

TITLE 2. JUDICIAL BRANCH

Text of subtitle as added by Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 42

(S.B. [966](#)), Sec. 1.01

SUBTITLE K. COURT PROFESSIONS REGULATION

CHAPTER 157. COURT INTERPRETERS LICENSING

SUBCHAPTER A. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Text of section effective on September 01, 2014

Sec. 157.001. DEFINITIONS. In this chapter:

(1) "Advisory board" means the licensed court interpreter advisory board.

(2) "Licensed court interpreter" means an individual licensed under this chapter by the commission to interpret court proceedings for an individual who can hear but who does not comprehend English or communicate in English.

Transferred, redesignated and amended from Government Code, Subchapter C, Chapter 57 by Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 42 (S.B. [966](#)), Sec. 1.08, eff. September 1, 2014.

SUBCHAPTER B. LICENSED COURT INTERPRETER ADVISORY BOARD

Text of section effective on September 01, 2014

Sec. 157.051. LICENSED COURT INTERPRETER ADVISORY BOARD.

(a) The licensed court interpreter advisory board is established as an advisory board to the commission. The advisory board is composed of at least five members appointed by the supreme court. Members of the advisory board serve staggered six-year terms as ordered by the supreme court.

(b) The supreme court shall select from the advisory board members a presiding officer of the advisory board to serve for two years.

(c) Members shall be appointed without regard to race, color, disability, sex, religion, age, or national origin. The membership of the advisory board must reflect the geographical and

cultural diversity of the state.

(d) The supreme court may remove a member of the advisory board for inefficiency or neglect of duty in office.

(e) A majority of the advisory board constitutes a quorum.

(f) The advisory board shall advise the commission regarding the adoption of rules and the design of a licensing examination.

(g) An advisory board member is entitled to reimbursement for travel expenses and other actual and necessary expenses incurred in attending meetings of the advisory board in the amount of the per diem set by the General Appropriations Act. A member may not receive compensation for the member's services as an advisory board member.

Transferred, redesignated and amended from Government Code, Subchapter C, Chapter 57 by Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 42 (S.B. [966](#)), Sec. 1.08, eff. September 1, 2014.

#### SUBCHAPTER C. LICENSE ISSUANCE

Text of section effective on September 01, 2014

Sec. 157.101. ISSUANCE OF LICENSE; TERM. (a) The director shall issue a court interpreter license to an applicant who:

(1) can interpret for an individual who can hear but who does not comprehend English or communicate in English;

(2) passes the appropriate examination prescribed by the commission not earlier than two years before the date the director receives the applicant's application for a license; and

(3) possesses the other qualifications for the license required by this chapter or by rules adopted under this chapter.

(b) The commission shall adopt rules relating to licensing under this chapter. The rules must be approved by the supreme court. The director shall prescribe all forms required under this chapter.

(c) A license issued under this chapter is valid for one year from the date of issuance.

(d) A license issued under this chapter must include at least one of the following designations:

(1) a basic designation that permits the interpreter to interpret court proceedings in justice courts and municipal courts that are not municipal courts of record, other than a proceeding before the court in which the judge is acting as a magistrate; or

(2) a master designation that permits the interpreter to interpret court proceedings in all courts in this state, including justice courts and municipal courts described by Subdivision (1).

(e) In adopting rules relating to licensing under this subchapter, the commission shall, after consulting with the advisory board, prescribe the minimum score an individual must achieve on an examination to receive a license that includes a basic designation under Subsection (d) and the minimum score an individual must achieve to receive a license that includes a master designation under that subsection.

Transferred, redesignated and amended from Government Code, Subchapter C, Chapter 57 by Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 42 (S.B. [966](#)), Sec. 1.08, eff. September 1, 2014.

Text of section effective on September 01, 2014

Sec. 157.102. COURT INTERPRETER LICENSE. To qualify for a court interpreter license under this chapter, an individual must apply on a form prescribed by the commission and demonstrate, in the manner required by the director, reasonable proficiency in interpreting English and court proceedings for individuals who can hear but who do not comprehend English or communicate in English.

Transferred, redesignated and amended from Government Code, Subchapter C, Chapter 57 by Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 42 (S.B. [966](#)), Sec. 1.08, eff. September 1, 2014.

Text of section effective on September 01, 2014

Sec. 157.103. EXAMINATIONS. (a) The director shall prepare examinations under this chapter that test an applicant's knowledge, skill, and efficiency in interpreting under this chapter. The same examinations must be used for issuing a license

that includes a basic designation or master designation as described by Section 157.101(d).

(b) An individual who fails an examination may apply for reexamination at a scheduled examination held at least six months after the date the individual failed the original examination.

(c) Examinations shall be offered in the state at least twice a year at times and places designated by the director.

Transferred, redesignated and amended from Government Code, Subchapter C, Chapter 57 by Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 42 (S.B. [966](#)), Sec. 1.08, eff. September 1, 2014.

Text of section effective on September 01, 2014

Sec. 157.104. COMMISSION DUTIES; INSPECTIONS. (a) The commission shall enforce this chapter.

(b) The commission shall investigate allegations of violations of this chapter.

Transferred, redesignated and amended from Government Code, Subchapter C, Chapter 57 by Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 42 (S.B. [966](#)), Sec. 1.08, eff. September 1, 2014.

Text of section effective on September 01, 2014

Sec. 157.105. SUSPENSION AND REVOCATION OF LICENSES; REISSUANCE. (a) After a hearing, the commission shall suspend or revoke a court interpreter license on a finding that the individual:

(1) made a material misstatement in an application for a license;

(2) disregarded or violated this chapter or a rule adopted under this chapter; or

(3) engaged in dishonorable or unethical conduct likely to deceive, defraud, or harm the public or a person for whom the interpreter interprets.

(b) The commission may reissue a license to an individual whose license has been revoked if the individual applies in writing to the department and shows good cause to justify reissuance of the license.

Transferred, redesignated and amended from Government Code, Subchapter C, Chapter 57 by Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 42 (S.B. [966](#)), Sec. 1.08, eff. September 1, 2014.

Text of section effective on September 01, 2014

Sec. 157.106. PROHIBITED ACTS. A person may not advertise, represent to be, or act as a licensed court interpreter unless the person holds an appropriate license under this chapter.

Transferred, redesignated and amended from Government Code, Subchapter C, Chapter 57 by Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 42 (S.B. [966](#)), Sec. 1.08, eff. September 1, 2014.

Text of section effective on September 01, 2014

Sec. 157.107. OFFENSE; ADMINISTRATIVE PENALTY. (a) A person commits an offense if the person violates this chapter or a rule adopted under this chapter. An offense under this subsection is a Class A misdemeanor.

(b) A person who violates this chapter or a rule adopted under this chapter is subject to an administrative penalty assessed by the commission as provided by Chapter 153.

Transferred, redesignated and amended from Government Code, Subchapter C, Chapter 57 by Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 42 (S.B. [966](#)), Sec. 1.08, eff. September 1, 2014.