

AN ACT concerning

Deaf and Hearing Impaired Persons - Interpreters -
Hearings and Public Gatherings

FOR the purpose of ~~authorizing the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene to provide, upon request, qualified interpreters to assist deaf persons at certain hearings and public gatherings, allowing selection of qualified interpreters from certain directories, and allowing the Secretary to maintain a separate list of qualified interpreters from which selections may be made~~ requiring State departments, agencies, and the Maryland General Assembly in certain instances to provide, upon request, interpreters to assist deaf persons at certain hearings.

BY adding to

Article 30 - Deaf, Mute or Blind
Section 2
Annotated Code of Maryland
(1976 Replacement Volume and 1978 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That section(s) of the Annotated Code of Maryland be repealed, amended, or enacted to read as follows:

Article 30 - Deaf, Mute or Blind

2.

AT ANY PUBLIC MEETING OR HEARING CONDUCTED BY ANY STATE DEPARTMENT OR AGENCY OR BY THE MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY, ~~THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE SHALL PROVIDE, UPON 24 HOUR NOTICE, A QUALIFIED INTERPRETER TO ASSIST DEAF PERSONS. THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE MAY CONSULT THE DIRECTORY OF INTERPRETERS FOR MANUAL COMMUNICATION OR ORAL INTERPRETATION WHICH IS MAINTAINED BY THE COURTS OF THIS STATE TO ASSIST DEAF PERSONS. THE SECRETARY MAY ALSO MAINTAIN A SEPARATE LIST OF QUALIFIED INTERPRETERS FROM WHICH SELECTIONS MAY BE MADE.~~ THE GOVERNMENTAL AUTHORITY INVOLVED, UPON 5 DAYS' WRITTEN NOTICE AND TO THE EXTENT FEASIBLE AND POSSIBLE, SHALL PROVIDE A QUALIFIED INTERPRETER TO ASSIST DEAF PERSONS TO UNDERSTAND THE PROCEEDING. WHETHER THE PROVISION OF AN INTERPRETER IS FEASIBLE SHALL BE DETERMINED, IN EACH INSTANCE, BY THE GOVERNMENTAL AUTHORITY INVOLVED BASED UPON THE NATURE OF THE HEARING AND THE NUMBER OF DEAF PERSONS MAKING THE REQUEST.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 1979.

Approved May 14, 1979.
