

Licensing and Regulation - Language Requirement

FOR the purpose of ~~eliminating any requirement that an applicant for registration, certification, or licensure be able to speak the English language if the board or commission within the Department of Licensing and Regulation makes a certain determination~~ providing the circumstances under which a certain requirement may be established by a board or commission within the Department of Licensing and Regulation that an applicant for registration, certification, or licensure be able to communicate the English language; authorizing the boards and commissions of the Department to authorize the use of interpreters; and setting forth procedures for use of interpreters.

BY adding to

Article 41 - Governor - Executive and Administrative Departments
Section 221A(f)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(1978 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 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That section(s) of the Annotated Code of Maryland be repealed, amended, or enacted to read as follows: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 41 - Governor - Executive and Administrative Departments

221A.

~~(F) (1) ANY REQUIREMENT THAT AN APPLICANT FOR REGISTRATION, CERTIFICATION, OR LICENSURE BE ABLE TO COMMUNICATE IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE DOES NOT APPLY IF THE BOARD OR COMMISSION DETERMINES THAT IT DOES NOT BEAR A REASONABLE RELATIONSHIP TO THE REGISTRATION, CERTIFICATION, OR LICENSURE.~~

(F) (1) A BOARD OR COMMISSION WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND REGULATION MAY REQUIRE AN APPLICANT FOR REGISTRATION, CERTIFICATION, OR LICENSURE TO BE ABLE TO COMMUNICATE IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE ONLY TO THE EXTENT THAT THE BOARD OR COMMISSION HAS MADE AN EXPRESS DETERMINATION THAT ABILITY TO COMMUNICATE IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE IS NECESSARY AND BEARS A REASONABLE RELATIONSHIP TO THE APPLICANT FOR REGISTRATION, CERTIFICATION, OR LICENSURE.

(2) THE BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND REGULATION MAY PERMIT THE USE OF INTERPRETERS WITH RESPECT TO ANY FOREIGN LANGUAGE OR SIGN LANGUAGE IF THE BOARD OR COMMISSION HAS DETERMINED THAT THE USE OF AN INTERPRETER WILL NOT COMPROMISE THE INTEGRITY OF ANY TESTING PROCESS OR PROCEDURE. THE COST OF AN INTERPRETER SHALL BE BORNE BY THE APPLICANT FOR