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BILL ANALYSIS

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House Bill 5029 (Substitute H-2 as passed by the House)
House Bill 5672 (as passed by the House)
Sponsor: Representative Dudley Spade
House Committee: Regulatory Reform
Senate Committee: Economic Development and Regulatory Reform

Date Completed: 3-12-10

CONTENT

House Bills 5029 (H-2) and 5672 would amend the Deaf Persons' Interpreters Act and the Division of Deafness Act, respectively, to require fees for certification as a qualified interpreter to be deposited in the Division on Deafness Fund for costs associated with the Division on Deaf and Hard of Hearing within the Commission on Disability Concerns.

The bills are tie-barred.

House Bill 5029 (H-2)

The bill would require that money received under Sections 8c and 8e of the Deaf Persons' Interpreters Act be deposited into the Division on Deafness Fund established in the Division of Deafness Act, and spent as described in that Act.

Money deposited into the Fund under the bill would have to be spent to cover costs associated with the Division on Deaf and Hard of Hearing.

(Section 8c requires that a State certification be issued to a person who is certified through, and is in good standing with, the National Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf upon that person's filing an application and submitting a \$30 application fee.

Under Section 8e, a person who is a qualified interpreter, upon presenting national certification credentials and without examination, must pay a \$30 application fee, which also fulfills the initial certification requirement. The Division must collect a \$30 annual renewal fee for issuing State certification credentials for all qualified interpreters. The Division also must collect a \$125 examination fee from each Michigan resident applying to take an examination for certification and a \$175 examination fee from out-of-State applicants.)

House Bill 5672

The Division of Deafness Act requires the Division to receive and forward to the State Treasurer for deposit in the Division on Deafness Fund all money received under Section 7 of the Act (which authorizes the Division to solicit and accept gifts, grants, or other aid from any source). Under the bill, the Division also would have to receive and forward to the State Treasurer for deposit in the Fund money received under Sections 8c and 8e of the Deaf Persons' Interpreters Act.

The Division of Deafness Act requires that revenue in the Fund be spent only for the implementation of the Act. Under the bill, revenue in the Fund would have to be spent for the implementation of the Act and to cover costs associated with the Division (as provided in House Bill 5029 (H-2)).

Proposed MCL 393.508f (H.B. 5029)
MCL 408.208 (H.B. 5672)

Legislative Analyst: Patrick Affholter

FISCAL IMPACT

House Bill 5029 (H-2) would require the deposit of deaf interpreters' licensing and examination fees into the existing Division on Deafness Fund, thereby allowing unspent revenue to carry forward.

Licensing and examination fees paid by interpreters for the deaf or hard of hearing support the Division on Deaf and Hard of Hearing within the Commission on Disability Concerns, paying a portion of the costs of administering the certification program. The interpreter fees, established by Public Act 23 of 2007, are shown in Table 1 below:

Table 1
Schedule of Interpreter Fees

Type of Fee	Amount
Application fee	\$30
Examination fee (resident)	\$125
Examination fee (nonresident)	\$175
Renewal fee.....	\$30

For FY 2008-09, the fees generated approximately \$9,000 in revenue. The line item for the Commission on Disability Concerns includes expenditure authority of \$90,000 in FY 2009-10 for this fee revenue. The current revenue, however, is considerably below the appropriated amount and is insufficient to cover the cost of the interpreters program. Costs in excess of fee revenue are paid from the line item for the Commission on Disability Concerns. In FY 2009-10, the year-to-date appropriation for the Commission is \$1,157,000, including \$392,700 General Fund/General Purpose revenue.

Fiscal Analyst: Elizabeth Pratt
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