



HOUSE BILL 854: Require Licensure of Educational Interpreters.

2025-2026 General Assembly

Committee: House Education - K-12. If favorable, re-refer to Regulatory Reform. If favorable, re-refer to Finance. If favorable, re-refer to Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House **Date:** May 6, 2025

Introduced by: Reps. Blackwell, Wheatley, Paré, Schietzelt **Prepared by:** Brian Gwyn

Analysis of: PCS to First Edition **Committee Co-Counsel**
H854-CSBEf-16

OVERVIEW: *The 1st edition of House Bill 854 would remove the exemption for educational interpreters or transliterators from the licensure requirements of the North Carolina Interpreter and Transliterator Licensure Act. The PCS would do all of the following:*

- Add requirements related to licensure of educational interpreters and educational transliterators.
- Modify requirements for provisional licensure.
- Make other technical changes.

CURRENT LAW: Chapter 90D establishes requirements related to the licensing of interpreters and transliterators. G.S. 90D-4(b)(5) exempts educational interpreters or transliterators, who are defined as those "who provide[] accessible communication, using the most understandable language model, to individuals in prekindergarten through grade 12 or in any institution of higher education."

G.S. 115C-110.2 requires interpreters and transliterators employed by local educational agencies (LEAs) to complete 15 hours of job-related training that has been approved by the LEA.

BILL ANALYSIS: The PCS would make educational interpreters and educational transliterators subject to licensure by the North Carolina Interpreter and Transliterator Licensing Board by removing their exemption under G.S. 90D-4(b)(5). It would also modify licensure requirements for an individual seeking to be licensed as an educational interpreter or educational transliterator by doing the following:

- Allowing an individual to demonstrate proficiency for licensure by holding a current Educational Interpreter Performance Assessment (EIPA) level 4.0 or above classification and passing the EIPA written test.
- For an individual seeking provisional licensure, requiring the individual to pass the EIPA written test in addition to the existing requirement of holding an EIPA level 3.5 or above.
- For an individual seeking provisional licensure without having a two-year associate degree or having met the EIPA requirements, requiring the individual to hold any certificate or assessment issued by a nationally recognized body in addition to the existing requirement of having 400 hours of interpreting or transliterating services in the previous two years.
- Limiting the number of times a provisional license can be renewed from three to two.
- Temporarily allowing an individual with an expired provisional license to be issued a new provisional license (expiring September 30, 2027).

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Additionally, the PCS would allow continuing education hours completed in compliance with licensure renewal requirements adopted by the North Carolina Interpreter and Transliterators Licensing Board to be applied toward the 15 hours of job-related training for interpreters and transliterators employed by LEAs.

The North Carolina Interpreter and Transliterators Licensing Board and the State Board of Education would be authorized to adopt rules to implement these requirements.

EFFECTIVE DATE: The PCS would become effective October 1, 2026.