
SENATE BILL 5558

State of Washington

66th Legislature

2019 Regular Session

By Senator Saldaña

Read first time 01/23/19. Referred to Committee on Human Services,
Reentry & Rehabilitation.

1 AN ACT Relating to reinstating the authority of the department of
2 social and health services and the health care authority to purchase
3 interpreter services for applicants and recipients of public
4 assistance who are sensory-impaired; amending RCW 39.26.100; creating
5 a new section; and declaring an emergency.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that recent
8 legislation to alter the procurement of spoken language interpreter
9 services and to allow spoken language interpreters to elect
10 collective bargaining representation also removed the authority of
11 department of social and health services to procure interpreter
12 services on behalf of applicants and recipients of public assistance
13 who are sensory-impaired. The legislature intends to reinstate that
14 authority.

15 **Sec. 2.** RCW 39.26.100 and 2018 c 253 s 4 are each amended to
16 read as follows:

17 (1) The provisions of this chapter do not apply in any manner to
18 the operation of the state legislature except as requested by the
19 legislature.

1 (2) The provisions of this chapter do not apply to the
2 contracting for services, equipment, and activities that are
3 necessary to establish, operate, or manage the state data center,
4 including architecture, design, engineering, installation, and
5 operation of the facility, that are approved by the technology
6 services board or the acquisition of proprietary software, equipment,
7 and information technology services necessary for or part of the
8 provision of services offered by the consolidated technology services
9 agency.

10 (3) Primary authority for the purchase of specialized equipment,
11 and instructional and research material, for their own use rests with
12 the institutions of higher education as defined in RCW 28B.10.016.

13 (4) Universities operating hospitals with approval from the
14 director, as the agent for state hospitals as defined in RCW
15 72.23.010, and for health care programs provided in state
16 correctional institutions as defined in RCW 72.65.010(3) and
17 veterans' institutions as defined in RCW 72.36.010 and 72.36.070, may
18 make purchases for hospital operation by participating in contracts
19 for materials, supplies, and equipment entered into by nonprofit
20 cooperative hospital group purchasing organizations if documented to
21 be more cost-effective.

22 (5) Primary authority for the purchase of materials, supplies,
23 and equipment, for resale to other than public agencies, rests with
24 the state agency concerned.

25 (6) The authority for the purchase of insurance and bonds rests
26 with the risk manager under RCW 43.19.769, except for institutions of
27 higher education that choose to exercise independent purchasing
28 authority under RCW 28B.10.029.

29 (7) The provisions of this chapter do not apply to information
30 technology purchases by state agencies, other than institutions of
31 higher education and agencies of the judicial branch, if (a) the
32 purchase is less than one hundred thousand dollars, (b) the initial
33 purchase is approved by the chief information officer of the state,
34 and (c) the agency director and the chief information officer of the
35 state jointly prepare a public document providing a detailed
36 justification for the expenditure.

37 (8) The authority to purchase interpreter services on behalf of
38 applicants and recipients of public assistance who are sensory-
39 impaired rests with the department of social and health services and
40 the health care authority.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** This act is necessary for the immediate
2 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of
3 the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes
4 effect immediately.

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