



99TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2015 and 2016

HB3620

by Rep. Cynthia Soto

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

705 ILCS 78/10 new

Amends the Foreign Language Court Interpreter Act. Provides that whenever any person is party or witness in a civil action in this State, the court shall, upon its own motion or that of a party, determine whether the person is capable of understanding the English language and is capable of expressing himself or herself in the English language so as to be understood directly by counsel, court, or jury. Provides that if the court finds the person incapable of so understanding or so expressing himself or herself, the court shall appoint an interpreter for the person whom he or she can understand and who can understand him or her. Provides that the interpreter shall be sworn to truly interpret or translate all questions propounded or answers given as directed by the court. Provides that the court shall determine a reasonable fee for all interpreter services, which shall be paid out of the general county funds. Provides that "interpreter" includes a sign language interpreter.

LRB099 09653 HEP 29862 b

FISCAL NOTE ACT
MAY APPLY

A BILL FOR

1 AN ACT concerning courts.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The Foreign Language Court Interpreter Act is
5 amended by adding Section 10 as follows:

6 (705 ILCS 78/10 new)

7 Sec. 10. Interpreters for civil cases.

8 (a) Whenever any person is party or witness in a civil
9 action in this State, the court shall, upon its own motion or
10 that of a party, determine whether the person is capable of
11 understanding the English language and is capable of expressing
12 himself or herself in the English language so as to be
13 understood directly by counsel, court, or jury. If the court
14 finds the person incapable of so understanding or so expressing
15 himself or herself, the court shall appoint an interpreter for
16 the person whom he or she can understand and who can understand
17 him or her.

18 (b) The court shall enter an order of its appointment of
19 the interpreter who shall be sworn to truly interpret or
20 translate all questions propounded or answers given as directed
21 by the court.

22 (c) The court shall determine a reasonable fee for all
23 interpreter services, which shall be paid out of the general

1 county funds.

2 (d) As used in this Section, "interpreter" includes a sign

3 language interpreter.