



THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

March 10, 2026

HB1192 - State Board of Sign Language Interpreters - Membership and Licensing

Good afternoon Madame Chair, Mr. Vice Chair and members of the Government, Labor, and Elections Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you about House Bill 1192.

The impetus for the bill dates back to the passage of 2023 HB260, The Maryland Sign Language Interpreters Act, which established a licensing and regulatory system for sign language interpreters. This framework was an important step toward strengthening professional standards and ensuring access to qualified interpreting services across the State.

The State Board of Sign Language Interpreters has since been established and is working diligently to implement regulations. However, under this previous legislation, some timelines have not been met and issues have arisen that require additional legislative action to rectify.

House Bill 1192 realigns deadlines that have not been met and provides the Board with additional time to achieve compliance. The Bill adds more members to the State Board of Sign Language Interpreters, adds reporting requirements and stakeholder input as the Board develops regulations related to specialty licensing, and corrects a drafting error in the original legislation.

The bill also requires the licensure Board's membership nomination process to include engaging with underrepresented deaf, deafblind, and interpreter communities to ensure the Board makeup reflects the population it serves.

These changes will put the Office of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing and the Board in the best position for successful implementation of this important licensing legislation, while maintaining access to critical interpretation services across the State.

I respectfully request a favorable report on House Bill 1192.