Overview

The bill establishes voluntary registration programs for general interpreters and specialized interpreters; establishes a pilot training program for interpreters, to be operated by the University of Minnesota and the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities; and appropriates money.

Section

1 Findings; purpose. This section makes legislative findings and states purposes for establishing registration programs for general interpreters and specialized interpreters. Subdivision 1 states findings and purposes for general interpreters, and subdivision 2 states findings and purposes for specialized interpreters.

2 Definitions. The following terms are defined for the chapter establishing general interpreter and health care interpreter registration programs: commissioner, general interpreter, general interpreting, specialized interpreter, specialized interpreting, registered, and spoken language interpreter.

3 Voluntary interpreter registration programs. This section directs the commissioner of administration to establish general interpreter and specialized interpreter registration programs and procedures for registration. The commissioner must also keep a list of registered interpreters and make copies of the list available to the public.

Subd. 1. Directs the commissioner to establish a voluntary registration program for general interpreters.

Subd. 2. Directs the commissioner to establish a voluntary registration program for specialized interpreters.

Subd. 3. Requires applicants for registration to apply as directed by the commissioner.

Subd. 4. Directs the commissioner to keep a list of all registered interpreters, make copies of that list available to the public, and verify upon request whether an interpreter is registered.

4 Protected titles and restrictions on use. This section prohibits any person who is not
registered from using a protected title. Subdivision 1 lists protected titles for general interpreters, and subdivision 2 lists protected titles for specialized interpreters.

5 **Requirements for registration; general interpreters.** This section establishes the requirements a general interpreter must satisfy to be registered: requirements for professional standards, a code of ethics, bilingual proficiency, and training.

6 **Requirements for registration; specialized interpreters.** This section establishes the requirements a specialized interpreter must satisfy to be registered: requirements for satisfying the registration standards for general interpreters, training, and an examination on interpreting.

7 **Interpreter advisory council.** This section creates an interpreter advisory council and establishes its membership and duties. Subdivision 1 creates a 15-member advisory council and specifies who must be included in its membership. Subdivision 2 makes the council subject to section 15.059, which governs the operation of advisory councils and committees. Subdivision 3 lists the subjects on which the council must provide advice and recommendations to the commissioner.

8 **Pilot program; general and specialized interpreter training programs.** This section requests the University of Minnesota and the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities to establish a four-course plus practicum pilot training program for spoken language interpreters in community service settings. Recommends training sites. Requests development of a two-course plus practicum curriculum in general interpreting and a two-course plus practicum curriculum in specialized interpreting. Recommends prerequisites and qualifications for instructors.

9 **Registration encouraged.** This section encourages public and private entities that use general or health care interpreters to help these interpreters become registered.

10 **Recommendations.** This section directs the interpreter advisory council, in consultation with the listed agencies and other interested individuals, to provide recommendations to the legislature on (1) what department of state government should be permanently responsible for administering the interpreter registration programs, and (2) the creation of a registration program in specialized interpreting.

11 **Appropriations.** Makes appropriations to the commissioner of administration, the University of Minnesota, and MnSCU.