

NEED AND REASONABLENESS

INTERPRETER FOR THE HEARING IMPAIRED

The statutory authority for the State Board of Technical Colleges to promulgate these rules is contained in Minnesota Statutes section 136C.04, subd. 9 which states:

Licensure. The State Board may adopt rules, according to the provisions of Chapter 14, for licensure of teaching, support, and supervisory personnel in postsecondary and adult vocational education. When necessary for continuous programs approved by the board and when the board determines appropriate temporary standards do not exist, the board may adopt appropriate temporary standards without regard to Chapter 14 and may issue temporary licenses to teaching and support personnel. A temporary license is valid up to one year and is not renewable, but a person holding a temporary license may, upon its expiration, be issued a license in accordance with standards adopted under Chapter 14. The state board may establish a processing fee for the issuance, renewal, or extension of a license.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The technical college board is in the process of revising existing licensure rules and developing instructor licenses for new programs when an appropriate standard does not exist. These rules follow the format established for previous revised and new licenses.

Each individual rule had its own subcommittee consisting of State Board of Technical Colleges staff, technical college administrators, and licensed instructors and representatives from business and industry. Other individuals may be involved dependent upon the rule being promulgated as in the case of health areas professional credentialing representation. Each rule is also reviewed by a licensure committee representing the State Board of Technical Colleges prior to the board's resolution to adopt the rule.

The general format for the rules are as follows:

Subpart 1. May teach. Lists programs and courses which license holder may teach.

Subp. 2. Other requirements. Refers to the other requirements an applicant must meet for licensure as referred to above.

Subp. 3. Occupational and educational experience requirement. Specifies education required and number of hours in specific occupational areas acceptable for instructor licensure in the specific occupational program.

Subp. 4. Substitution for recent occupational experience. Identifies relevant current teaching experience which can substitute for a portion of the recency requirement.

This rule follows the format set by the previously revised licenses in student developmental services, Financial Aid Administrator, 3700.1100, and Counselor, 3700.1050.

Subpart 1. License required. The activities as listed are essentially the same as in current rule 3515.5500, subpart 10. The changes are editorial and for clarity only and are therefore reasonable.

Subp. 2. Other requirements. Identifies for the applicant other requirements which must be met for licensure. There are no changes in this subpart.

Subp. 3. Educational experience requirement.

Item A. Certification by the Registry for the Hearing Impaired. Certification requires written and performance evaluation. Written evaluation measures knowledge in the code of ethics of interpreters, cultural effects of impairment, formal language preparation, professional standards, and history of interpreting. Ethical considerations which are necessary include confidentiality, unbiased interpretation, and limits of services to be offered. Successful completion of this registration assures the applicant has the knowledge and attitudes required of an interpreter.

Performance evaluation required for registration in both expressive and receptive. Receptive evaluates the applicant's ability to view and see, transcribing this to voice. Expressive evaluation consists of listening and changing the voice to American sign language. This test is offered three to four times annually in both the metropolitan and outstate areas.

Item B. Formal interpreter training assures the applicant has had the education and training required to perform the activities as listed in subpart 1. Completion of an accredited program is reasonable to assure the applicant has completed a practicum which was both supervised and evaluated. This is reasonable since a program is currently available at Inver Hills Community College, St. Mary's Junior College, Itasca Community College, St. Paul Technical College which operates satellite programs throughout the state, Willmar to Mankato to Duluth, and is also available at Wausau Community College, Wisconsin.

Items A and B are necessary to assure the applicant will have knowledge and alludes to functioning at a high level of ethical and professional standards to include the deaf culture. The performance evaluation or program completion measures the skills necessary to transmit concepts utilizing conceptually accurate signs and English rather than indefinite imperfect slang methods. These are reasonable items due to the availability of both item A and B as indicated above.

Subp. 4. First License Renewal. This is the same as current rule. There are no changes in this subpart. The rule will be implemented using current processes. There is no fiscal impact.