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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2023

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A N A C T

RELATING TO COURTS AND CIVIL PROCEDURE--COURTS -- LANGUAGE
INTERPRETERS--USE OF LANGUAGE INTERPRETERS IN LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

Introduced By: Senators Quezada, Ujifusa, Tikoian, LaMountain, and Cano

Date Introduced: March 30, 2023

Referred To: Senate Judiciary

(Judiciary)

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 8-19-7 of the General Laws in Chapter 8-19 entitled "Language
2 Interpreters — Use of Language Interpreters in Legal Proceedings" is hereby amended to read as
3 follows:

4 **8-19-7. Confidential communications.**

5 No interpreter/~~transliterater~~ translator appointed pursuant to this chapter to interpret or
6 translate for limited-English-proficient persons in proceedings before the state courts in Rhode
7 Island shall be called upon to testify concerning any statement(s) and/or confidential
8 communications made to them in connection with ~~the interpreter's or transliterater's~~ any
9 interpretation or ~~transliteration~~ translation, properly entrusted to the translator in their professional
10 capacity, without the consent of the person making the statement or unless compelled by court
11 order.

12 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF

A N A C T

RELATING TO COURTS AND CIVIL PROCEDURE--COURTS -- LANGUAGE
INTERPRETERS--USE OF LANGUAGE INTERPRETERS IN LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

1 This act would ensure that communications between court appointed interpreters and
2 limited-English-proficient individuals involved in legal proceedings in the courts are confidential
3 in nature and only disclosable by consent of the person making the communication or by court
4 order.

5 This act would take effect upon passage.

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