

2016 -- H 8170

=====  
LC005885  
=====

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2016

—————  
A N A C T

RELATING TO COURTS AND CIVIL PROCEDURE - OFFICIAL COURT INTERPRETERS

Introduced By: Representative Christopher R. Blazejewski

Date Introduced: May 05, 2016

Referred To: House Judiciary

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1           SECTION 1. Section 8-5-8.2 of the General Laws in Chapter 8-5 entitled "Court  
2 Secretaries, Court Reporters, and Electronic Court Reporters" is hereby amended to read as  
3 follows:

4           **8-5-8.2. Privileged communications. --** In the trial of every cause, both civil and  
5 criminal, no interpreter/transliterater for the deaf, hard of hearing, and deaf-blind or an official  
6 interpreter employed or contracted by the state office of court interpreters acting in their official  
7 capacity shall be competent to testify concerning any statement made to him or her in connection  
8 with the interpreter's or transliterater's interpretation or transliteration for the deaf, hard of  
9 hearing, and deaf-blind or in connection with interpretation or transliteration performed by an  
10 official interpreter employed or contracted by the state office of court interpreters acting in their  
11 official capacity, without the consent of the person making the statement. No duly licensed  
12 interpreter/transliterater for the deaf, hard of hearing, and deaf-blind or an official interpreter  
13 employed or contracted by the state office of court interpreters acting in their official capacity  
14 shall be allowed, in giving testimony to disclose any confidential communication, properly  
15 entrusted to him or her in his or her professional capacity, and necessary and proper to enable him  
16 or her to discharge the functions of his or her office in the usual course of practice or discipline,  
17 without the consent of the person making the communication.

18           SECTION 2. Section 9-17-25 of the General Laws in Chapter 9-17 entitled "Witnesses"  
19 is hereby amended to read as follows:

1           **9-17-25. Privileged communication -- Interpreter. --** Whenever a sign language  
2 interpreter [or an official interpreter employed or contracted by the state office of court interpreters](#)  
3 [acting in their official capacity](#) is used to facilitate a communication which is privileged pursuant  
4 to either statutory law or common law between parties, one or more of whom is hearing impaired,  
5 the sign language interpreter [or an official interpreter employed or contracted by the state office](#)  
6 [of court interpreters acting in their official capacity](#) shall not be compelled to testify in any forum  
7 regarding that communication.

8           SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon passage.

=====  
LC005885  
=====

EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF  
A N A C T  
RELATING TO COURTS AND CIVIL PROCEDURE - OFFICIAL COURT INTERPRETERS

\*\*\*

1           This act would extend the privileged nature of communications to interpreters of those  
2   communications as long as the interpreters are officially working for the state office of court  
3   interpreters.

4           This act would take effect upon passage.

=====  
LC005885  
=====