

Rep. Gonzáles wants state to provide Spanish interpreter services to health care providers

Key medical personnel in Texas would be able to call a toll-free telephone number to get help in understanding patients who speak Spanish under legislation filed by Rep. Verónica Gonzáles

Her proposal, House Bill 161, would amend Subchapter B, Chapter 12, Health and Safety Code, by adding Section 12.0151 to read as follows:

Sec. 12.0151.
I N T E R P R E T E R
S E R V I C E S .

(a) In this section «health care interpreter» means a person who is trained to orally communicate with a

person whose primary language is Spanish by accurately conveying the meaning of oral health care related statements in English and Spanish.

(b) The Department of State Health Services shall establish a toll-free telephone number that is answered by a health care interpreter 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The health care interpreter shall provide oral language interpreter services to physicians, hospital employees, and

other health care providers to assist those individuals in communicating with patients whose primary language is Spanish.

(c) The executive commissioner of the Health and Human Services

Commission shall adopt rules to implement this section, including rules establishing the qualifications required for health care interpreters who answer the toll-free telephone number established under this section. Δ

