

Proposed Amendments to ORS from Meetings on 3/6 and 3/11

The Legislative and Policy Advisory Committee voted and agreed on these:

Final proposed change to ORS 413.550(1): Replace the current statutory definition with “a person who is readily able to communicate with a person with Limited English Proficiency and to accurately interpret the oral statements of the person with Limited English Proficiency into English and sight translate documents from said person’s language into English, and who is readily able to interpret the oral statements of other persons into the language of the person with limited English proficiency and to sight translate documents in English into the language of the person with limited English proficiency. This also applies to sign language interpreters in a healthcare setting.”

Final proposed change to ORS 413.550(2): Replace the current statutory definition with “Health care” means medical, surgical, or hospital care or any other remedial care recognized by state law, including physical and behavioral health care.”

Final proposed changes to ORS 413.554(1): (E) An organization involved in services to refugee and immigrant communities in Oregon. (H) An educational institution or entity involved in training health care interpreters in Oregon. (I) A health care interpreter practicing in Oregon. (c, A) One member with responsibility for administering behavioral health programs;

Final proposed changes to ORS 413.552: (3) “It is the policy of the Legislative Assembly to encourage the use of certified or qualified health care interpreters whenever possible to ensure accurate and adequate healthcare provision to persons with Limited English Proficiency.”

The Legislative and Policy Advisory Committee members did not vote on these so I am leaving them as “SME final recommendations”.

- Add the existing definition of “sight translation” from the OAR to ORS 413.550 Definitions for ORS 413.550 to 413.448: (4) Sight translation means the translation of a written document into spoken language.
- Wording for ORS 413.554(1): (H) An educational entity involved in training health care interpreters in Oregon.
- ORS 413.556(2): Coordinate with [other federal, state, or other professional organizations states](#) to develop and implement educational and testing programs for health care interpreters.
- ORS 413.558(3): The authority shall work with [other federal, state or other professional organizations states](#) to develop educational and testing programs and procedures for the qualification and certification of health care interpreters.

- ORS 413.558(4a): Is able to fluently interpret ~~or translate~~ the dialect, slang or specialized vocabulary of the non-English language for which qualification is sought
- ORS 413.558(5): A person may not use the title of [Oregon](#) qualified health care interpreter unless the person has met the requirements for qualification established under subsections (1) and (4) of this section and has been issued a valid ~~certificate~~ [letter](#) of qualification by the authority.
- ORS 413.558(7): A person may not use the title of [Oregon](#) certified health care interpreter unless the person has met the requirements for certification established under subsections (1) and (6) of this section and has been issued a valid certification by the authority.
- ORS 413.550 Definitions for ORS 413.550 to 413.448: (2) Qualified Health Care Interpreter means an individual who has been issues a valid letter of qualification by the Oregon Health Authority.(3) Certified Health Care Interpreter means an individual who has been issues a an approved certificate by the Oregon Health Authority. The current paragraphs (2) and (3) of this subsection become (4) and (5) accordingly.

SMEs did not come to a consensus to edit Megan’s suggestion to change ORS 413.552:

(3) It is the policy of the Legislative Assembly to ~~encourage~~ require the use of qualified and certified health care interpreters ~~whenever possible~~ to ensure accurate and adequate health care provision to persons with limited English Proficiency.

Further comments after the meeting

David Cardona shared additional suggestions by email:

- I'd like to recommend adding a representative from the language service provider industry (LSP) to the roster. They play an important role in the industry by hiring independent contractors to serve our communities. (Please disregard my recommendation if you already discussed it).
- After further consideration, I'd like to support removing the representatives from DHS and OHA from the roster. They haven't been actively participating in the Council for the last 3 years. The other members should continue being appointed by the Governor's office to ensure autonomy and for proper representation. OHA, Office of Equity and Inclusion will staff the council.
- Helen Eby agreed to the suggestion and added it should be someone based in Oregon who understands the local situation here.