

FAQ: Sign Language Interpreter Legal License – Repealed as of January 1, 2026

REVISION ISSUED ON DECEMBER 18, 2025

OVERVIEW & BACKGROUND

During the 2025 Legislative Session, SB 950 (2025) was passed and signed into law by the Governor on May 28, 2025. The new law repeals the sign language interpreter (SLI) legal license, effective January 1, 2026. However, any SLI legal license issued between June 8, 2024, and December 31, 2025, will remain valid through January 1, 2029, allowing SLI legal license holders three additional years to practice.

Beginning January 1, 2026, the SLI legal license will no longer be issued or renewed due to SB 950 (2025), which repeals this license type.

The Health Licensing Office (HLO) has provided a FAQ to help understand how the current law aligns with SB 950 (2025).

PERMANENT BOARD SLI LEGAL LICENSE

Q1: When did HLO begin issuing permanent¹ Board of Sign Language Interpreters (Board) SLI legal licenses?

A: HLO began issuing permanent Board SLI legal licenses on June 8, 2024.

¹ To obtain a permanent Board SLI legal license a person had to apply and provide all required information, meet all qualifications, and pay application and license fees.

Q2: When will HLO stop issuing permanent Board SLI legal licenses?

A: HLO will stop issuing permanent Board SLI legal licenses on December 31, 2025.

Q3: Does my permanent Board SLI legal license qualify me for the extension ending January 1, 2029?

A: Yes. Your permanent Board SLI legal license will automatically be extended until January 1, 2029.

Q4: Do I have to renew my permanent Board SLI legal license before December 31, 2025, to have my permanent Board SLI legal license extended until January 1, 2029?

A: No. You do not have to renew your permanent Board SLI legal license to have it extended until January 1, 2029.

Q5: Does my permanent Board SLI legal license need to be active on January 1, 2026, to have my permanent Board SLI legal license extended until January 1, 2029?

A: No. Your permanent Board SLI legal license doesn't have to be active on January 1, 2026, to be extended until January 1, 2029.

Q6: Can I renew my permanent Board SLI legal license after December 31, 2025?

A: No. Starting January 1, 2026, the permanent Board SLI legal license can no longer be renewed due to SB 950 (2025) repealing the SLI legal license.

Q7: Can I obtain a permanent Board SLI legal license after December 31, 2025?

A: No. Starting January 1, 2026, permanent Board SLI legal licenses will no longer be issued due to SB 950 (2025) repealing the SLI legal license.

Q8: If I was issued a permanent Board SLI legal license between June 8, 2024, and December 31, 2025, where can I provide sign language interpretation services after January 1, 2026?

A: From January 1, 2026, to January 1, 2029, you can provide sign language interpretation services in settings that the Board authorizes without needing extra licenses. The Board was scheduled to adopt temporary rules on October 22, 2025, but quorum requirements to hold a public meeting could not be met. The Board is scheduled to meet on February 4, 2026, at which time the Board is expected to review and adopt temporary rules, including defining legal settings.

Q9: If I was issued a permanent Board SLI legal license in 2024 or 2025, can I get a refund or transfer the fees?

A: No. Once the license has been issued and fees paid, those fees can't be refunded or transferred.

Q10: If I renewed my permanent Board SLI legal license in 2024 or 2025, can I get a refund or transfer the fees?

A: No. Once the license has been issued and fees paid, those fees can't be refunded or transferred.

TEMPORARY SLI LEGAL LICENSE

Q11: When were temporary² SLI legal licenses issued?

A: Temporary SLI legal licenses were issued between January 1, 2024, and June 7, 2024, at 11:59 p.m.

² There were no fees required to obtain a temporary license issued from January 1, 2024, to June 7, 2024.

Q12: When did temporary SLI legal licenses become null and void?

A: Temporary SLI legal licenses became null and void on June 7, 2024, at 11:59 p.m.

Q13: Does my temporary SLI legal license qualify me for the extension ending January 1, 2029?

A: No. The temporary SLI legal license does not qualify you for the extension ending January 1, 2029.

LIMITED WAIVER ON ENFORCEMENT

Q14: When does the limited waiver on enforcement end?

A: The limited waiver on enforcement began on January 1, 2024, ends on June 30, 2026.

Q15: If I choose to work under the limited waiver on enforcement and do not obtain a permanent Board SLI educational, medical or legal license, do I qualify for the extension ending January 1, 2029?

A: No. If you choose to work under the limited waiver on enforcement and do not obtain a permanent Board SLI educational, medical or legal license, you do not qualify for the extension ending January 1, 2029.

RESOURCES AND CONTACT INFORMATION AS OF SEPTEMBER 30, 2025

Resource Information:

- Meeting information: <https://www.oregon.gov/oha/PH/HLO/Pages/Board-Sign-Language-Interpreters-Meetings.aspx>
- Meeting videos: https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLg51XtPQ_i12YOz4s46gqmW-Wx521TYli

- Current rules and laws: <https://www.oregon.gov/oha/PH/HLO/Pages/Board-Sign-Language-Interpreters-Laws-Rules.aspx>
- How to receive up-to-date Board information:
<https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/ORHA/signup/38181>

Contact Information:

- Licensing questions: Michael Brennan, 503-934-5009,
michael.a.brennan@oha.oregon.gov
- Board meeting or rulemaking questions: Josh Page, 503-934-0720,
josh.page@oha.oregon.gov
- Board membership questions: Krissy Pickett, 503-378-2093,
krissy.pickett@oha.oregon.gov