

September 1, 2026

Sign Language Interpreter Rulemaking: Public Comment Period Extended and Additional Hearings Scheduled

The Health Licensing Office (HLO) is providing this update regarding implementation of ongoing rulemaking activities related to sign language interpreter licensing in Oregon including upcoming opportunities for public participation in the rulemaking process. To provide the public and interested parties with additional time to review and comment on [the proposed rules](#), the public comment period has been extended through 12 p.m. (noon) on September 4, 2026, and two additional public hearings have been scheduled (see details below). Additional information also includes an update to extend the limited waiver on enforcement, and frequently asked questions related to changes to existing license types.

Extension of the Limited Waiver on Enforcement:

The Health Licensing Office (HLO) is extending the limited waiver on enforcement through midnight on **December 31, 2026**.

This extension allows the Oregon Board of Sign Language Interpreters (Board) to continue finalizing the rulemaking process and allowing sufficient time for permanent rules to become effective. Extending the waiver also provides interested parties with additional time to implement the new rules into their business practices and operations.

Under this limited waiver, the HLO will not take disciplinary action against individuals providing signed language interpreting (SLI) services without a permanent board license. This waiver also allows businesses to employ or contract with an individual who is not licensed to provide signed language interpretation services. This waiver applies only to the act of providing SLI services without a license. The HLO may still pursue disciplinary action for violations of any other applicable statutes or administrative rules.

Beginning January 1, 2027, individuals providing signed language interpreting services in Oregon must hold a permanent board license to avoid enforcement action.

Expect Permanent Rules by January 1, 2027:

The Board approved proposed rules at the [April 20, 2026, meeting](#). The HLO filed proposed rules with the Secretary of State (SOS) on July 31, 2026, to begin the permanent rulemaking process.

HLO began accepting public comment on August 1, 2026. You are invited to [review the proposed rules](#) and submit comments from now through 12 p.m. (noon) on September 4, 2026. Comments may be submitted by email to Samie Patnode at samie.patnode@oha.oregon.gov or by postal mail to:

Attn: Samie Patnode
c/o Health Licensing Office
1430 Tandem Ave. NE, Suite 180
Salem, OR 97301-2192

Public Rules Hearings:

Hearings were held on August 18 and 19, 2026, and two additional hearings have been scheduled for the following:

- Wednesday, September 2 from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m.
[Join ZoomGov Meeting](#)
Meeting ID: 165 673 2664
Passcode: 922095
- Thursday, September 3 from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m.
[Join ZoomGov Meeting](#)
Meeting ID: 165 750 1223
Passcode: 702532

Proposed rules include but are limited to:

- Fees for the issuance and renewal of licenses.
- Application requirements to obtain a SLI-in-training license and an SLI provisional license.
- Supervision requirements for a SLI-in-training and provisional license holder.
- Repealing the three specialty license types (educational, medical and legal).
- Settings in which the specialty license holders may provide signed language interpretation services.
- Application requirements to obtain an SLI supervisory and generalist license.
- Renewal and continuing education requirements for all SLI license holders.

- Additional exceptions that allow a person to provide SLI services in Oregon without a license under specified circumstances.

The Board is scheduled to [meet on October 26, 2026](#), to consider public comments and the hearing officer reports. The Board is expected to adopt permanent rules at the October meeting.

Repealed License Information:

[Senate Bill 950 \(2025\)](#) repealed the SLI educational, medical and legal licenses effective January 1, 2026. All SLI educational, medical and legal licenses *issued* between June 8, 2024, and December 31, 2025, will remain valid through January 1, 2029. The HLO will no longer renew or issue any SLI educational, medical or legal licenses after January 1, 2026.

HLO has provided FAQs to help understand how the current law aligns with SB 950 (2025).

[FAQ for Sign Language Interpreter Educational License](#)

[FAQ for Sign Language Interpreter Legal License](#)

[FAQ for Sign Language Interpreter Medical License](#)

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