

**ONE HUNDRED FOURTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION - 2015**  
**COMMITTEE STATEMENT**  
**LB287**

---

**Hearing Date:** Friday March 06, 2015  
**Committee On:** Health and Human Services  
**Introducer:** Haar  
**One Liner:** Change provisions relating to licensure of interpreters for the deaf and hard of hearing

---

**Roll Call Vote - Final Committee Action:**  
Advanced to General File with amendment(s)

---

**Vote Results:**  
**Aye:** 7 Senators Baker, Campbell, Cook, Crawford, Howard, Kolterman, Riepe  
**Nay:**  
**Absent:**  
**Present Not Voting:**

---

**Verbal Testimony:**

**Proponents:**  
Senator Ken Haar  
John Wyvill  
Crystal Pierce

**Representing:**  
District 21  
Nebraska Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing  
Self

**Opponents:**

**Representing:**

**Neutral:**

**Representing:**

---

**Summary of purpose and/or changes:**

The bill was introduced on behalf of the Nebraska Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing to update statutes regarding sign language interpreters and ensure agencies are obtaining effective communication for services provided.

**Section-by-section description:**

Section (1): Amends 20-150 regarding the civil rights of individuals who are deaf and hard of hearing, to update outdated language and add a provision for video remote interpreting providers and incorporate section 4 of this Act.

Section (2): Amends 20-151 to include video remote interpreting and incorporate section 4 of this Act.

Section (3): Amends 20-156 to incorporate video remote interpreting providers, section (4) of this bill, and to add penalty language.

Section (4): Adds new requirements regarding licensure for interpreters. Requires those engaged in practice of interpreting to be licensed by 2016 or face civil penalties not to exceed \$500 for each offense. Allows the commission to investigate unlicensed activity. Provides exceptions to the interpreter licensure requirements

Section (5): Amends 20-159 to allow licensed interpreters to impose a fee for service as agreed between the interpreter and the contracting entity.

Section (6): Amends 71-4728, creating the Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, to add video remote interpreting providers, and removes outdated language.

Section (7): Repealer

---

**Explanation of amendments:**

---

AM730 to LB287 strikes American Sign Language to include other types of sign including manually coded systems or cued speech, to ensure video remote interpretation is not restricted to one particular sign language.

---

Kathy Campbell, Chairperson