

**NCITLB – HB 590**  
**Short Title: Amend Interpreter Law/Cued Speech**  
**Talking Points**  
**2013 Legislative Session**

- Self Help for Hard of Hearing (SHHH) was officially renamed Hearing Loss Association of North Carolina (HLA-NC) – *this is a technical change.*
- The proposed changes regarding requirements for Cued Language transliteration are based on the fact that the current language contains factually erroneous information. (90D-7 and 90D-8)
  - The National Cued Speech Association, in fact, has no role or authority whatsoever in the evaluation and certification. Only the TECUnit has that role and authority.
- The proposed changes regarding the requirement for deaf interpreters to become provisionally licensed are based on the fact that the current language contains factually erroneous information. (90D-8)
  - If a deaf interpreter already is certified (CDI), then that interpreter automatically qualifies for full license.
  - The new language strengthens the requirements for a provisional license and ensures the deaf interpreter is sufficiently proficient to interpret while seeking full licensure.
- The proposed changes to the educational requirements do not lower standards. The national certifying body that issues the certification required for licensure in NC has established comparable educational standards. (90D-7 and 90D-8)
  - However, there is a critical shortage of qualified sign language interpreters and transliterators in North Carolina, especially in rural areas. These interpreters are needed to enable Deaf people to use services and resources in the communities where they live, such as healthcare, employment, emergency preparedness and response, social services, housing and the judicial system. With access to these services and resources, Deaf people are able to function independently and more likely to be gainfully employed. With better access to interpreters, agencies and service providers are better able to prevent costly errors, such as misdiagnosis or false arrests as a result of miscommunication.
  - The proposed changes to the licensure law (Chapter 90D) are intended to alleviate this shortage and **to allow seasoned, highly-skilled and nationally-certified interpreters who do not possess formal college degrees to move to NC and provide interpreting services.** NC has lost about 20 such interpreters in the past 3 or 4 years for this reason – and this has had a huge impact on Deaf consumers all across NC. There already exist national educational and training standards for interpreters. The Licensure Board unanimously supports these changes.