

PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE DIVISION[645]

Notice of Intended Action

**Proposing rulemaking related to continuing education
and providing an opportunity for public comment**

The Board of Sign Language Interpreters and Transliterators hereby proposes to rescind Chapter 362, “Continuing Education for Sign Language Interpreters and Transliterators,” Iowa Administrative Code, and to adopt a new chapter with the same title.

Legal Authority for Rulemaking

This rulemaking is proposed under the authority provided in Iowa Code chapters 147, 154E and 272C.

State or Federal Law Implemented

This rulemaking implements, in whole or in part, Iowa Code chapters 17A, 147, 154E and 272C.

Purpose and Summary

These proposed rules set forth continuing education requirements for sign language interpreters and transliterators. The rules include definitions related to continuing education, the required number of hours of continuing education that licensees are required to obtain, the standards that licensees need to meet in order to comply with the rules, and the types of continuing education courses that are permissible. The intended benefit of continuing education is to ensure that sign language interpreters and transliterators maintain up-to-date practice standards and, as a result, provide high-quality services to Iowans.

Fiscal Impact

This rulemaking has no fiscal impact to the State of Iowa.

Jobs Impact

After analysis and review of this rulemaking, no impact on jobs has been found.

Waivers

A waiver provision is not included in this rulemaking because all administrative rules of the professional licensure boards in the Professional Licensure Division are subject to the waiver provisions accorded under 645—Chapter 18.

Public Comment

Any interested person may submit written or oral comments concerning this proposed rulemaking. Written or oral comments in response to this rulemaking must be received by the Department of Inspections, Appeals, and Licensing no later than 4:30 p.m. on January 31, 2024. Comments should be directed to:

Jessica O’Brien
Iowa Department of Inspections, Appeals, and Licensing
6200 Park Avenue
Des Moines, Iowa 50321
Phone: 515.281.6352
Email: jessica.o'brien@dia.iowa.gov

Public Hearing

Public hearings at which persons may present their views orally or in writing will be held as follows:

January 30, 2024
12:10 to 12:30 p.m.

6200 Park Avenue
Des Moines, Iowa
Video call link: meet.google.com/jji-jaoj-uqy
Phone: 1.904.330.1060
PIN: 744 558 427#

January 31, 2024
12:10 to 12:30 p.m.

6200 Park Avenue
Des Moines, Iowa
Video call link: meet.google.com/jji-jaoj-uqy
Phone: 1.904.330.1060
PIN: 744 558 427#

Persons who wish to make oral comments at a public hearing may be asked to state their names for the record and to confine their remarks to the subject of this proposed rulemaking. In an effort to ensure accuracy in memorializing a person's comments, a person may provide written comments in addition to or in lieu of oral comments at a hearing.

Any persons who intend to attend a public hearing and have special requirements, such as those related to hearing or mobility impairments, should contact the Board and advise of specific needs.

Review by Administrative Rules Review Committee

The Administrative Rules Review Committee, a bipartisan legislative committee which oversees rulemaking by executive branch agencies, may, on its own motion or on written request by any individual or group, review this rulemaking at its [regular monthly meeting](#) or at a special meeting. The Committee's meetings are open to the public, and interested persons may be heard as provided in Iowa Code section 17A.8(6).

The following rulemaking action is proposed:

ITEM 1. Rescind 645—Chapter 362 and adopt the following **new** chapter in lieu thereof:

CHAPTER 362
CONTINUING EDUCATION FOR SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETERS AND
TRANSLITERATORS

645—362.1(154E,272C) Definitions. For the purpose of these rules, the following definitions apply:

“Active license” means a license that is current and has not expired.

“Approved program/activity” means a continuing education program/activity meeting the standards set forth in these rules.

“Audit” means the selection of licensees for verification of satisfactory completion of continuing education requirements during a specified time period.

“Board” means the board of sign language interpreters and transliterators.

“Continuing education” means planned, organized learning acts acquired during licensure designed to maintain, improve, or expand a licensee's knowledge and skills in order for the licensee to develop new knowledge and skills relevant to the enhancement of practice, education, or theory development to improve the safety and welfare of the public.

“Hour of continuing education” means at least 50 minutes spent by a licensee in actual attendance at and completion of an approved continuing education activity.

“Inactive license” means a license that has expired because it was not renewed by the end of the grace period.

“Independent study” means a subject/program/activity that a person pursues autonomously that meets standards for approval criteria in the rules and includes a posttest.

“License” means license to practice.

“Licensee” means any person licensed to practice as a sign language interpreter or transliterator in the state of Iowa.

645—362.2(154E,272C) Continuing education requirements.

362.2(1) Requirements for permanent licensees. The continuing education compliance period runs concurrently with each two-year renewal period beginning on July 1 of each odd-numbered year and ending on June 30 of the next odd-numbered year. Each person who is licensed to practice as a sign language interpreter or transliterator in this state will be required to complete a minimum of 40 hours of continuing education as specified in rule 645—362.3(154E,272C).

362.2(2) Exception for new permanent licensees. A person licensed for the first time will not be required to complete continuing education as a prerequisite for the first renewal of the license. Thereafter, the new licensee will complete the continuing education requirements as set forth in rule 645—362.3(154E,272C). The licensee may use continuing education hours acquired anytime from the initial licensing until the second license renewal to meet the requirements.

362.2(3) National Interpret Certification (NIC) or Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID) Certification. A licensee who provides proof of a current NIC or current RID Certification meets continuing education requirements for that biennium renewal cycle.

362.2(4) Requirements for temporary license holders. The continuing education compliance period runs concurrently with each two-year renewal period beginning on the date of initial licensure. Temporary license holders will be required to obtain 40 hours of continuing education as set forth in rule 645—362.3(154E,272C). The temporary license holder may use only continuing education hours acquired during the current renewal period. Proof of continuing education hours acquired will be submitted with a temporary license renewal application.

362.2(5) Hours of continuing education credit may be obtained by attending and participating in a continuing education activity.

362.2(6) No hours of continuing education will be carried over into the next renewal period.

362.2(7) The licensee is responsible for the cost of continuing education.

645—362.3(154E,272C) Standards.

362.3(1) *General criteria.* A continuing education activity that meets all of the following criteria is appropriate for continuing education credit if the continuing education activity:

- a. Is an organized program of learning fundamental to the practice of the profession that contributes directly to the professional competency of the licensee;
- b. Is conducted by individuals who have specialized education and training in the subject matter of the program. At the time of audit, the board may request the qualifications of presenters;
- c. Fulfills stated program goals, objectives, or both; and
- d. Provides proof of attendance, including:
 - (1) Date, location, course title, and presenter(s);
 - (2) Number of program contact hours; and
 - (3) Certificate of completion or evidence of successful completion of the course provided by the course sponsor.

362.3(2) *Specific criteria.*

a. Continuing education will be obtained by attending programs relating to the practice of interpreting or transliterating for the deaf or hard of hearing and that are:

- (1) Educational activities, including lectures, conferences, focused seminars, clinical and practical workshops, simultaneous live satellite broadcasts and teleconferences;
- (2) Obtained in content areas that conform to the content areas specified in the RID Certification Maintenance Program Standards and Criteria for Approved Sponsors, revised edition, June 2004, with the exception of the number of continuing education units (CEUs) required, which is defined in paragraph 362.3(2) “b.” RID activity categories of independent study or teaching an academic class are not professional study categories that can be claimed for credit by temporary license holders.

b. Each renewal period, licensees will obtain 40 hours (4 CEUs) of continuing education, including no less than 30 hours (3 CEUs) of professional studies. The remaining 10 hours (1 CEU) may be in either professional or general studies. The board will accept proof of a current NIC or current RID Certification in lieu of proof of the 40 hours of continuing education.

c. Continuing education hours of credit equivalents for academic coursework per biennium are as follows:

1 academic semester hour = 15 continuing education hours

1 academic quarter hour = 10 continuing education hours

1 CEU = 10 continuing education hours

These rules are intended to implement Iowa Code section 272C.2 and chapter 154E.