

**CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT  
DIGEST FOR EHB 1350**

**Citations Affected:** IC 16-18-2-62; IC 16-18-2-161.5; IC 16-46-11.1.

**Synopsis:** Commission on health care interpreters and translators. Conference committee report for EHB 1350. Creates the commission on health care interpreters and translators, to be staffed by the state department of health. Requires the commission to report specified findings and recommendations to the health finance commission not later than November 1, 2004. **(This conference committee report adds as a member to the commission the executive director of the health professions bureau or the executive director's designee.)**

**Effective:** July 1, 2004.

## CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT

*MADAM PRESIDENT:*

*Your Conference Committee appointed to confer with a like committee from the House upon Engrossed Senate Amendments to Engrossed House Bill No. 1350 respectfully reports that said two committees have conferred and agreed as follows to wit:*

that the House recede from its dissent from all Senate amendments and that the House now concur in all Senate amendments to the bill and that the bill be further amended as follows:

- 1 Delete everything after the enacting clause and insert the following:
- 2 SECTION 1. IC 16-18-2-62 IS AMENDED TO READ AS
- 3 FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2004]: Sec. 62. (a) "Commission",
- 4 for purposes of IC 16-19-6, refers to the commission for special
- 5 institutions.
- 6 (b) "Commission", for purposes of IC 16-31, refers to the Indiana
- 7 emergency medical services commission.
- 8 (c) "Commission", for purposes of IC 16-46-11.1, has the
- 9 meaning set forth in IC 16-46-11.1-1.
- 10 SECTION 2. IC 16-18-2-161.5 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA
- 11 CODE AS A NEW SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
- 12 JULY 1, 2004]: Sec. 161.5. "Health care interpreter", for purposes
- 13 of IC 16-46-11.1, has the meaning set forth in IC 16-46-11.1-2.
- 14 SECTION 3. IC 16-18-2-163.5 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA
- 15 CODE AS A NEW SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
- 16 JULY 1, 2004]: Sec. 163.5. "Health care translator", for purposes
- 17 of IC 16-46-11.1, has the meaning set forth in IC 16-46-11.1-3.
- 18 SECTION 4. IC 16-46-11.1 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE
- 19 AS A NEW CHAPTER TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY
- 20 1, 2004]:

1           **Chapter 11.1. Commission on Health Care Interpreters and**  
 2 **Translators**

3           **Sec. 1. For purposes of this chapter, "commission" refers to the**  
 4 **commission on health care interpreters and translators**  
 5 **established by section 4 of this chapter.**

6           **Sec. 2. For purposes of this chapter, "health care interpreter"**  
 7 **means a professional interpreter who works primarily in the field**  
 8 **of health care facilitating the oral communication among a:**

- 9           (1) provider;  
 10           (2) patient; and  
 11           (3) patient's family.

12           **Sec. 3. For purposes of this chapter, "health care translator"**  
 13 **means a professional translator who:**

- 14           (1) works primarily in the field of health care; and  
 15           (2) specializes in the translation of written medical documents  
 16           from one (1) language into another.

17           **Sec. 4. The commission on health care interpreters and**  
 18 **translators is established. The state department shall provide staff**  
 19 **for the commission.**

20           **Sec. 5. (a) The commission consists of the following fifteen (15)**  
 21 **members:**

- 22           (1) One (1) member representing the state department.  
 23           (2) One (1) member representing local health departments.  
 24           (3) One (1) member representing the medical profession.  
 25           (4) One (1) member representing institutions of higher  
 26           education in Indiana.  
 27           (5) Two (2) members representing patient advocacy groups.  
 28           (6) One (1) member representing community organizations.  
 29           (7) One (1) member representing interpreter professional  
 30           associations.  
 31           (8) One (1) member representing translator professional  
 32           associations.  
 33           (9) One (1) member representing hospitals.  
 34           (10) One (1) member representing the interagency state  
 35           council on black and minority health.  
 36           (11) One (1) member representing the department of  
 37           correction who is nominated by the commissioner of the  
 38           department of correction.  
 39           (12) One (1) member representing the department of  
 40           education who is nominated by the state superintendent of  
 41           public instruction.  
 42           (13) One (1) member representing the office of Medicaid  
 43           policy and planning who is nominated by the director of the  
 44           office of Medicaid policy and planning.  
 45           (14) The executive director of the health professions bureau  
 46           or the executive director's designee.

47           **The state health commissioner shall appoint the members of the**

1 commission designated by subdivisions (1) through (13). The  
 2 appointments made under this subsection must be made in a  
 3 manner to maintain cultural and language diversity.

4 (b) The state health commissioner shall designate:

5 (1) one (1) member as chairperson of the commission; and

6 (2) one (1) member as vice chairperson of the commission.

7 (c) Except for the member of the commission designated by  
 8 subsection (a)(14), a member is appointed to a term of two (2)  
 9 years or until a successor is appointed. A member may be  
 10 reappointed to an unlimited number of terms.

11 (d) Except for the member of the commission designated by  
 12 subsection (a)(14), if a member:

13 (1) resigns;

14 (2) dies; or

15 (3) is removed from the commission;

16 before the expiration of the member's term, the state health  
 17 commissioner shall appoint a new member to serve for the  
 18 remainder of the term.

19 (e) The expenses of the commission shall be paid from funds  
 20 appropriated to the state department.

21 (f) Each member of the commission who is a state employee is  
 22 entitled to reimbursement for traveling expenses as provided  
 23 under IC 4-13-1-4 and other expenses actually incurred in  
 24 connection with the member's duties as provided in the state  
 25 policies and procedures established by the Indiana department of  
 26 administration and approved by the budget agency.

27 (g) The affirmative votes of a majority of the members  
 28 appointed to the commission are required for the commission to  
 29 take action on any measure.

30 (h) The commission shall meet quarterly or on the call of the  
 31 chairperson.

32 **Sec. 6. The commission shall do the following:**

33 (1) Write bylaws concerning the operation of the commission.

34 (2) Define the terms "health care interpreter" and "health  
 35 care translator".

36 (3) Review and determine the proper level of regulation or  
 37 oversight that Indiana should have over health care  
 38 interpreters and health care translators practicing in Indiana.

39 (4) Recommend the level and type of education necessary to  
 40 perform the job of:

41 (A) a health interpreter; and

42 (B) a health care translator.

43 (5) Recommend standards that health care interpreters and  
 44 health care translators should meet in order to practice in  
 45 Indiana.

46 SECTION 5. [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2004] (a) The initial terms of  
 47 office of the fourteen (14) individuals described

1 **IC 16-46-11.1-5(a)(1) through IC 16-46-11.1-5(a)(13), initially**  
2 **appointed to the commission on health care interpreters and**  
3 **translators under IC 16-46-11.1-5, as added by this act, are as**  
4 **follows:**

5 **(1) Seven (7) members for a term of one (1) year; and**

6 **(2) Seven (7) members for a term of two (2) years.**

7 **The state health commissioner shall designate the term of office**  
8 **of each individual initially appointed to the commission.**

9 **(b) This SECTION expires June 30, 2005.**

10 SECTION 6. [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2004] **(a) As used in this**  
11 **SECTION, "commission" refers to the commission on health care**  
12 **interpreters and translators established by IC 16-46-11.1-4, as**  
13 **added by this act.**

14 **(b) Not later than November 1, 2004, the commission shall**  
15 **report the commission's findings and recommendations**  
16 **determined under IC 16-46-11.1-6, as added by this act, to the**  
17 **health finance commission established by IC 2-5-23-3.**

18 **(c) This SECTION expires December 31, 2005.**

(Reference is to EHB 1350 as printed February 20, 2004.)

**Conference Committee Report**  
**on**  
**Engrossed House Bill 1350**

**S**igned by:

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Representative Aguilera  
Chairperson

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Senator Lawson C

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Representative Budak

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Senator Breaux

**House Conferees**

**Senate Conferees**