

SUBJECT: Modifying yearly offerings of court interpreter licensing examinations

COMMITTEE: Judiciary and Civil Jurisprudence — favorable, without amendment

VOTE: 8 ayes — Leach, Davis, Julie Johnson, Krause, Middleton, Moody,  
Schofield, Smith

0 nays

1 absent — Dutton

WITNESSES: For — Daniel Collins, El Paso County; (*Registered, but did not testify:*  
Adam Haynes, Conference of Urban Counties; Charles Reed, Dallas  
County Commissioners Court)

Against — None

BACKGROUND: Government Code sec. 157.103 requires that examinations for court  
interpreter licensing must be offered in Texas at least twice a year at times  
and places designated by the director of the Office of Court  
Administration.

Interested parties have noted that court interpreter licensing examinations  
are currently offered only in person in Austin, which creates a barrier of  
entry to the profession for individuals in Texas who do not live near  
Austin.

DIGEST: HB 2656 would modify the circumstances under which examinations for  
court interpreter licensing had to be offered to require that exams be  
offered:

- in person in each county with a population of 800,000 or more at least once a year at times and places designated by the director of the Office of Court Administration; or
- in person at times and places designated by the director, if any, and online at least twice a year at times designated by the director.

The bill would take effect January 1, 2022.