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**SENATE BILL 5558**

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**State of Washington**

**66th Legislature**

**2019 Regular Session**

**By** Senators Saldaña, Darneille, Keiser, and Nguyen

Read first time 01/23/19. Referred to Committee on Human Services,  
Reentry & Rehabilitation.

1 AN ACT Relating to reinstating the authority of the department of  
2 social and health services and the health care authority to purchase  
3 interpreter services for applicants and recipients of public  
4 assistance who are sensory-impaired; amending RCW 39.26.100; creating  
5 a new section; and declaring an emergency.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that recent  
8 legislation to alter the procurement of spoken language interpreter  
9 services and to allow spoken language interpreters to elect  
10 collective bargaining representation also removed the authority of  
11 department of social and health services to procure interpreter  
12 services on behalf of applicants and recipients of public assistance  
13 who are sensory-impaired. The legislature intends to reinstate that  
14 authority.

15 **Sec. 2.** RCW 39.26.100 and 2018 c 253 s 4 are each amended to  
16 read as follows:

17 (1) The provisions of this chapter do not apply in any manner to  
18 the operation of the state legislature except as requested by the  
19 legislature.

1 (2) The provisions of this chapter do not apply to the  
2 contracting for services, equipment, and activities that are  
3 necessary to establish, operate, or manage the state data center,  
4 including architecture, design, engineering, installation, and  
5 operation of the facility, that are approved by the technology  
6 services board or the acquisition of proprietary software, equipment,  
7 and information technology services necessary for or part of the  
8 provision of services offered by the consolidated technology services  
9 agency.

10 (3) Primary authority for the purchase of specialized equipment,  
11 and instructional and research material, for their own use rests with  
12 the institutions of higher education as defined in RCW 28B.10.016.

13 (4) Universities operating hospitals with approval from the  
14 director, as the agent for state hospitals as defined in RCW  
15 72.23.010, and for health care programs provided in state  
16 correctional institutions as defined in RCW 72.65.010(3) and  
17 veterans' institutions as defined in RCW 72.36.010 and 72.36.070, may  
18 make purchases for hospital operation by participating in contracts  
19 for materials, supplies, and equipment entered into by nonprofit  
20 cooperative hospital group purchasing organizations if documented to  
21 be more cost-effective.

22 (5) Primary authority for the purchase of materials, supplies,  
23 and equipment, for resale to other than public agencies, rests with  
24 the state agency concerned.

25 (6) The authority for the purchase of insurance and bonds rests  
26 with the risk manager under RCW 43.19.769, except for institutions of  
27 higher education that choose to exercise independent purchasing  
28 authority under RCW 28B.10.029.

29 (7) The provisions of this chapter do not apply to information  
30 technology purchases by state agencies, other than institutions of  
31 higher education and agencies of the judicial branch, if (a) the  
32 purchase is less than one hundred thousand dollars, (b) the initial  
33 purchase is approved by the chief information officer of the state,  
34 and (c) the agency director and the chief information officer of the  
35 state jointly prepare a public document providing a detailed  
36 justification for the expenditure.

37 (8) The authority to purchase interpreter services on behalf of  
38 applicants and recipients of public assistance who are sensory-  
39 impaired rests with the department of social and health services and  
40 the health care authority.

1        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 3.**    This act is necessary for the immediate  
2    preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of  
3    the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes  
4    effect immediately.

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