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**SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5984**

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**State of Washington**

**66th Legislature**

**2020 Regular Session**

**By** Senate Law & Justice (originally sponsored by Senators Wellman, Rivers, Hasegawa, Padden, Cleveland, Walsh, Hunt, Brown, Zeiger, Randall, Takko, Lovelett, Nguyen, Kuderer, Das, and Wilson, C.)

READ FIRST TIME 01/31/20.

1 AN ACT Relating to language understanding of documents used in  
2 dissolution proceedings; adding a new section to chapter 26.09 RCW;  
3 and making an appropriation.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 26.09  
6 RCW to read as follows:

7 In any matter brought pursuant to domestic relations proceedings  
8 under this chapter, when a limited English proficiency party requests  
9 interpretation services, or when a court has reason to know that the  
10 party has limited English proficiency, any orders being presented to  
11 the court for signature on behalf of that party, or by agreement of  
12 the parties, must include a certification from an interpreter that  
13 the order has been interpreted to the party in the relevant language.  
14 The interpreter appointed for this purpose must be an interpreter  
15 certified by the administrative office of the courts or a qualified  
16 interpreter registered by the administrative office of the courts in  
17 a noncertified language, or where the necessary language is not  
18 certified or registered, the interpreter must be qualified by the  
19 judicial officer pursuant to chapter 2.43 RCW. When requested, and  
20 upon reasonable advance notice, an interpreter must be provided for

1 limited English proficiency litigants by the court at no cost to the  
2 party for this purpose.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The sum of one hundred thousand dollars,  
4 or as much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for the  
5 fiscal year ending June 30, 2021, from the general fund to the  
6 administrative office of the courts interpreter reimbursement program  
7 for the purposes of this act.

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