

Subject Spoken language health care interpreter work group

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Overview

The commissioner of health administers a voluntary statewide roster for spoken language health care interpreters. This bill directs the commissioner to contract with a neutral consultant to consult with interpreter service providers by convening a spoken language health care interpreter work group, and requires the work group to develop recommendations to improve access to interpreter services to the state. The commissioner must provide recommendation and draft legislation to certain members of the legislature by November 1, 2026.

Summary

Section	Description
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1	Definitions.
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Adds § 144.0581. Defines terms for purposes of statutes governing the spoken language health care interpreter work group: commissioner, common languages, registered interpreter, work group.

2	Spoken language health care interpreter work group.
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Adds § 144.0582. Requires a spoken language health care interpreter work group to be established; provides for membership of the work group; and establishes work group duties.

Subd. 1. Establishment. Directs the commissioner of health to contract with a neutral consultant to consult with interpreter service providers by convening a spoken language health care interpreter work group.

Subd. 2. Composition. Requires the commissioner to appoint 15 members to the work group and specifies the work group's composition.

Subd. 3. Duties. Requires the work group to develop recommendations to support and improve access to interpreter services provided in the state, and lists topics that the recommendations must address.

Section	Description
3	<p>Initial spoken language health care interpreter work group meetings.</p> <p>Adds § 144.0583. Requires the commissioner to convene the first meeting of the work group by October 1, 2025. Requires work group members to receive survey results and research on interpreter services in Minnesota before the first meeting. During the first meetings, requires work group members to receive survey results and consult with subject matter experts. Requires the work group to provide at least two opportunities for public comment.</p>
4	<p>Reporting.</p> <p>Adds § 144.0584. Requires the commissioner, by November 1, 2026, to provide the chairs and ranking minority members of certain committees with recommendations and draft legislation to improve and support access to health care interpreting services statewide.</p>
5	<p>Appropriation.</p> <p>Appropriates a blank amount in fiscal year 2026 from the general fund to the commissioner of health for a request for proposals for the spoken language health care interpreter work group. Provides this appropriation is available until June 30, 2027.</p>



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