

**Nevada Association of Counties
(NACO)
2025 Legislative Session
PROPOSED AMENDMENT**

(March 11, 2025)

Assembly Bill 247: *Revises provisions related to persons with disabilities.* (BDR 19-574)

Amendment to be submitted to the Assembly Committee on Government Affairs

Submitted by: Amy Hyne-Sutherland

Health and Human Services Manager, NACO

Mobile: (805) 286-7378

ahs@nvnao.org

Purpose/Intent of Proposed Amendment:

The intent of the amendment is to increase access to interpreter services. Specifically, the intent is to align Section 1 subsection 1(a) with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) (28 C.F.R. § 35.104) definition of a “qualified interpreter” and explicitly specify that interpreter services can be provided electronically, which is also a provision outlined in the ADA. The current bill language references NRS 656A.030 which defines an interpreter as someone who is registered with the Division to engage in the practice of sign language. The intent of the amendment is to remove that reference, as it restricts the pool of available interpreters to those registered in Nevada. There is a significant shortage of sign language interpreters registered to provide services in the State of Nevada and their geographic reach is limited. With the advancement in new technologies, quality “qualified interpreter” services are increasingly available through electronic means. Greater access can be achieved if new technologies are utilized to provide interpreter services.

Text of Proposed Amendment:

PROPOSED AMENDMENT by NACO

EXPLANATION: Matter in (1) **blue bold italics** is new language in the original bill; (2) variations of **green bold underlining** is language proposed to be added in this amendment; (3) ~~red strikethrough~~ is deleted language in the original bill; (4) ~~purple double strikethrough~~ is language proposed to be deleted in this amendment; (5) ~~orange double underlining~~ is deleted language in the original bill proposed to be retained in this amendment.

Amendment Submitted by NACO

Section 1. NRS 241.020 is hereby amended to read as follows:

241.020 1. Except as otherwise provided by specific statute, all meetings of public bodies must be open and public, and all persons must be permitted to attend any meeting of these public bodies at a physical location or by means of a remote technology system. A meeting that is closed pursuant to a specific statute may only be closed to the extent specified in the statute allowing the meeting to be closed. All other portions of the meeting must be open and public, and the public body must comply with all other provisions of this chapter to the extent not specifically precluded by the specific statute. Public officers and employees responsible for these meetings shall make reasonable efforts to assist and accommodate persons with physical disabilities desiring to attend ~~+~~, **including, without limitation, providing at public meetings:**

~~(a) a person who is registered to engage in the practice of sign language interpreting pursuant to chapter 656A of NRS; and~~

(a) in person or through electronic means, a qualified interpreter as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act;

(b) Communication Access Realtime Translation.

End of Amendment.