

No. 501, S.]

[Published July 15, 1959.]

CHAPTER 187

AN ACT to amend 269.55 of the statutes, relating to interpreters for hearing-handicapped persons.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

269.55 of the statutes is amended to read:

269.55 Upon a trial or examination * * * in any matter wherein any deaf mute or * * * hearing-handicapped person * * * is accused of a crime or misdemeanor, or upon consideration by any state, county or municipal agency of the right or propriety of any such person to have privileges accorded normal hearing people, or when such person is to come under judgment as to his fitness for a place in society, and there is a definite communications barrier as evidenced by such person being incapable of adequately understanding any charge, issue or pertinent utterances or expressing himself because of a lack of ability to use the English language by reason of being deaf or hearing-handicapped, or by such person suffering from a speech defect or other physical defect which handicaps such person in exercising or maintaining his rights in such matter, the court * * *, judge, magistrate, agency, person or body conducting, considering or having jurisdiction of such trial * * *, examination or matter shall call in and appoint an interpreter competent to converse in the special language, oral, manual or sign, familiar to or used by such deaf mute or * * * hearing-handicapped person. The necessary expense of furnishing such interpreter shall be paid by the * * * unit of government for which such trial * * *, examination, inquiry or consideration is held or made if satisfactory proof be offered that said deaf mute or person is unable to pay the same.

Approved July 10, 1959.