**02-041**

Office of Professional and Occupational Regulation

**AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETERS**

2025-2026 Regulatory Agenda

AGENCY UMBRELLA-UNIT NUMBER: **02-041**

AGENCY NAME: Department of Professional and Financial Regulation, Office of Professional and Occupational Regulation, **American Sign Language Interpreters**

CONTACT INFORMATION for thE agency **RULEMAKING LIAISON**: Penny Vaillancourt, Director, OPOR, 35 State House Station, Augusta, ME 04333, 207-441-7153, penny.vaillancourt@maine.gov

**EMERGENCY RULES ADOPTED SINCE THE LAST REGULATORY AGENDA**: None.

**EXPECTED 2025-2026 RULE-MAKING ACTIVITY:**

Expected rulemaking will be to implement legislation governing telehealth services within the scope of practice of the licensee’s license. A review for conformance with statutes and current rules will be conducted and updated as may be necessary, including an update to discontinue the use of the terms “handicap,” “handicapped” and “hearing impaired” pursuant to 36 M.R.S. § 2557, sub-§2.

A workgroup consisting of State employees from DHHS, DOL, DOE, and OPOR working with a consulting service to study barriers to licensure and recommend Rule changes to increase the number of professionals who want to become licensed in Maine.

**CHAPTER 50: Definitions**

STATUTORY BASIS: 32 M.R.S. § 1522(1), 1521

PURPOSE: A review this chapter for conformance with statutes and make updates as may be necessary.

SCHEDULE FOR ADOPTION: Within the year, if necessary.

AFFECTED PARTIES: Applicants, licensees and members of the public.

CONSENSUS-BASED RULE DEVELOPMENT: N/A

**CHAPTER 51**: **Requirements for Initial Licensure and Licensure by Endorsement**

STATUTORY BASIS: 32 M.R.S. § 1522(1), 1524-B, 1524-C; 10 M.R.S. § 8003-H

PURPOSE: A review of this chapter for conformance with statutes and make updates as may be necessary that sets forth the criteria for the initial licensure of interpreters.

SCHEDULE FOR ADOPTION: Within the year, if necessary.

AFFECTED PARTIES: Applicants for licensure.

CONSENSUS-BASED RULE DEVELOPMENT: N/A

**CHAPTER 52**: **License Renewal, Inactive Licensure Status and Continuing Education**

STATUTORY BASIS: 32 M.R.S. § 1522(1), 1528, 1528-A; 10 M.R.S. § 8003 (5-A)(D)

PURPOSE: A review of this chapter for conformance with statutes and make updates as may be necessary that sets forth continuing education requirements and describes the license renewal process.

SCHEDULE FOR ADOPTION: Within the year, if necessary.

AFFECTED PARTIES: Licensees.

CONSENSUS-BASED RULE DEVELOPMENT: N/A

**CHAPTER 54**: **Code of Ethics and Ethical Standards**

STATUTORY BASIS: 32 M.R.S. §§ 1522(1)

PURPOSE: A review of this chapter for conformance with statutes and make updates as may be necessary to establish the ethical standards of practice for Certified Interpreters, Certified Deaf Interpreters, Limited Deaf Interpreters, Conditional Interpreters and Conditional Deaf Interpreters

SCHEDULE FOR ADOPTION: Within the year, if necessary.
AFFECTED PARTIES: Licensees and members of the public.

CONSENSUS-BASED RULE DEVELOPMENT: N/A

**CHAPTER NUMBER and Title: N/A**

STATUTORY BASIS: 32 M.R.S. § 1522(1), 32 M.R.S. § 1533

PURPOSE: A review of this chapter for conformance with statutes and make updates as may be necessary to establish standards of practice and appropriate restrictions for the various types and forms of telehealth services.

SCHEDULE FOR ADOPTION: Within the year.

AFFECTED PARTIES: Licensees and members of the public.

CONSENSUS-BASED RULE DEVELOPMENT: N/A