151st GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL NOTE

BILL:	**HOUSE BILL NO. 364**
SPONSOR:	**Representative Heffernan**
DESCRIPTION:	**AN ACT TO AMEND TITLE 19 OF THE DELAWARE CODE RELATING TO THE REGISTRATION OF INTERPRETERS FOR THE DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING AND DEAF-BLIND.**

Assumptions:

1. This Act becomes effective upon signature by the Governor and takes effect one year after its enactment into law.

2. This Act provides for a registration system for American Sign Language (ASL) interpreters within the Delaware Office for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (DelODHH) within the Department of Labor's (DOL) Division of Vocational Rehabilitation. In addition, this Act requires DelODHH to promulgate regulations necessary to carry out the provisions of the chapter, including the establishment of an Advisory Board.

3. This Act expands upon the duties of the DOL. Recurring annual costs are estimated at $90,037, and one-time costs are estimated at $500,000 and are as follows:
    a. $90,037 in Personnel Costs, including Other Employment Costs (OECs), for 1.0 FTE, Labor Law Enforcement Officer, to the DelODHH for Interpreter regulation and enforcement.
    b. $450,000 for the creation of a registration system for interpreters.
    c. $50,000 for hiring a consultant to draft regulations.

4. This Act will result in additional revenue by introducing registration fees and violation penalties. The accompanying Fee Impact Statement for this Act estimates that the State may receive approximately $5,000-$7,500 for the registration of about 50-75 interpreters.

5. The Fiscal Year 2023 personnel costs have been estimated for 9-months of funding, with the annualization of the remaining 3-months incorporated into subsequent year estimates. Additionally, a 2% inflation cost is included for projected salary increases, health insurance, and OECs.

Cost:

	One-Time	Ongoing
Fiscal Year 2023:	$500,000	$67,037
Fiscal Year 2024:		$91,837
Fiscal Year 2025:		$93,673

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Office of the Controller General