Know and Navigate AB 2257 and The Changed Landscape

Coalition of Practicing Translators and Interpreters of California
Polls
Today’s Webinar

- What is CoPTIC?
- Advocacy
- Translators
- Interpreters
- Referral Agencies
- National Viewpoint
- Q&A
CoPTIC and The Journey to AB 2257

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CoPTIC September 2020 | AB 2257
Primary purpose of California AB 5

- Extends employee classification status to gig workers.

- Companies must use a three-pronged test to prove workers are independent contractors, not employees.

- Designed to regulate companies that hire gig workers in large numbers, such as Uber, Lyft, and DoorDash.

Source: https://www.investopedia.com/california-assembly-bill-5-ab5-4773201
A person...is an employee...unless the hiring entity demonstrates that ALL of the following conditions are satisfied:

A. The person is **free from the control and direction** of the hiring entity in connection with the performance of the work, both under the contract for the performance of the work and in fact.

B. The person performs **work that is outside the usual course** of the hiring entity’s business.

C. The person is **customarily engaged in an independently established trade, occupation, or business of the same nature as that involved in the work performed.**
What Is CoPTIC?

• CoPTIC is the *Coalition of Practicing Translators & Interpreters of California.*

• Nonpartisan, statewide nonprofit

• Voice and advocacy group for the independence, integrity and equity concerns of language professionals
Why CoPTIC?

- The AB 5 crisis brought us together.
- We formed due to the need for an organization that creates a voice of advocacy and policy engagement for language professionals.
Who Is CoPTIC?

• CoPTIC was formed by a group of professional, working interpreters and translators in the state of California.

• Steering committee includes:
  • Court, administrative hearing, and medical certified interpreters
  • Conference and community interpreters,
  • Translation and interpretation educators
  • Certified translators

• Representing:
  • All practicing language professionals, across all language combinations, including:
  • Interpreters and translators, voice-over talent and transcribers
  • Real-time captioners for the deaf and hard of hearing, sign language interpreters
What Does CoPTIC Do?

• Constituent Driven Advocacy to win an exemption for interpreters from being classified as employees.

• Inspires language professionals to come out and make our OWN voices HEARD.
The combination of AB 5 and coronavirus left many professional linguists in California with zero assignments.

Then COVID-19 Hit Us Hard

Q&A: How New Coronavirus Laws Impact Freelancers
Others who weren’t put out of work had to shoulder the burden of providing expert language access with poor access to protective equipment & even more life-or-death stakes than usual.

Thank You, Professional Translators and Interpreters.
For lifelines to accurate information about COVID.
For getting help exactly where it hurts.
Another Effect of COVID-19

Our people power around the state could not set foot in lawmakers' Capitol or district offices to lobby.
CoPTIC stayed on task:

We assessed the reach of our network through-out the state: Several grassroots advocates in each of the 40 state Senate districts.
And at least one grassroots advocate (and often several) in all 80 state Assembly districts throughout California.
Constituent-Driven Advocacy Works

• More than 100 authentic messages from constituents to their Assemblymembers just on one day, June 5

• And CoPTIC advocates focused on each of the hurdles in the legislative process.
Constituent-Driven Advocacy Works

More than 50 callers phoned in testimony to Senate Appropriations Committee on August 17, from all parts of state, including committee members’ districts, echoing same message for half an hour.
FALSE CLAIM

• We fact-checked an utterly false claim about misclassification among interpreters by Asm. González that was being used to deny or downgrade any protection in the bill.

• https://coalitionptic.org/2020/08/05/misleading-claim-should-not-drive-state-policy/
After amending by the Senate Appropriations Committee, AB 2257 sailed through both chambers of the legislature just before adjournment.
GOVERNOR SIGNS THE BILL INTO LAW

• Then on Sept. 4, Governor Newsom signed AB 2257 into law. Because it was an urgency measure, it took effect immediately.