



General Assembly

Amendment

January Session, 2007

LCO No. 7236

HB0579907236HRO

Offered by:
REP. PISCOPO, 76th Dist.

To: Subst. House Bill No. 5799

File No. 771

Cal. No. 114

**"AN ACT REQUIRING A SERVICE OFFICER WITH PROFICIENCY
IN ENGLISH AND SPANISH WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF
VETERANS' AFFAIRS."**

1 After the last section, add the following and renumber sections and
2 internal references accordingly:

3 "Sec. 501. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2007*) (a) The official language of
4 the state shall be English. Neither the state nor any political
5 subdivision of the state shall require by statute, ordinance, regulation,
6 order, program or policy the use in the state of any language other
7 than English. Governmental officials and employees shall be bound by
8 the provisions of this section during the performance of government
9 business. No governmental document shall be valid, effective or
10 enforceable unless it is printed in the English language. The state and
11 all political subdivisions of the state shall take all reasonable steps to
12 preserve, protect and enhance the role of the English language as the
13 official language of the state.

14 (b) Notwithstanding any provision of subsection (a) of this section,

15 the state and political subdivisions of the state may act in a language
16 other than English to (1) assist students who are not proficient in the
17 English language by providing educational instruction in languages
18 other than English to provide as rapid as possible a transition to
19 English, (2) provide foreign language instruction as part of a required
20 or voluntary education curriculum, (3) allow for Latin on the state seal
21 and on government documents, (4) allow legislators to communicate
22 with constituents in languages other than English, (5) comply with
23 federal laws, (6) protect public health and safety, and (7) protect the
24 rights of criminal defendants or victims of crime. Nothing in this
25 subsection shall prohibit the printing of proper names."