



General Assembly

January Session, 2025

Proposed Bill No. 955

LCO No. 1458



Referred to Committee on GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION
AND ELECTIONS

Introduced by:
SEN. RAHMAN, 4th Dist.
(By Request)

AN ACT REQUIRING STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND STATE CONTRACTORS TO ENSURE INDIVIDUALS WITH LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY ARE ABLE TO ACCESS PUBLIC SERVICES.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

- 1 That the general statutes be amended to (1) require any state agency,
- 2 political subdivision of the state or other organization that receives state
- 3 funding and has a contract with the state to provide public services to
- 4 ensure (A) individuals whose primary language is not English have
- 5 access to such public services, including health care services and
- 6 education; (B) their staff is trained in working with such individuals;
- 7 and (C) the availability of translation and interpretation services in
- 8 languages that reflect the populations in the state, including, but not
- 9 limited to, Spanish, Portuguese, Chinese, Arabic, Italian, Haitian, Hindi,
- 10 French, Russian and sign language; (2) require state agencies to
- 11 designate a language access coordinator responsible for coordinating
- 12 services and implementing language access policies and provide a
- 13 language access plan on the agency's Internet web site; (3) require state

14 agencies to revise written and electronic materials to ensure they are
15 accessible to people of varying literacy levels; (4) require the
16 Department of Consumer Protection to establish an Office of Language
17 Access to oversee state language access policies and investigate
18 complaints of noncompliance; and (5) require state agencies to collect
19 and report data concerning language needs of the populations served.

Statement of Purpose:

To require the adoption of various policies concerning the offering of translation and interpretation services to ensure that individuals with limited English proficiency have meaningful access to programs and services offered by state and local government agencies, contractors and other entities that receive state funding.