



## 100TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

### State of Illinois

2017 and 2018

**HB2469**

by Rep. Lawrence Walsh, Jr.

#### SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

10 ILCS 5/17-14.1 new

Amends the Election Code. Requires each election authority to report to the State Board of Elections all census tracts within its jurisdiction in which more than 10% of the persons who speak the same foreign language have been identified as having limited English proficiency, as reported in the American Community Survey. Provides that those reports shall be made in 2018 and then each year ending in a 1 or a 6. Provides that, beginning with the general election held in 2018, any election authority reporting that more than 10% of persons residing within a census tract speaking the same foreign language have been identified as having limited English proficiency shall make certain election information available in the primary non-English language of those persons having limited English proficiency. Effective immediately.

LRB100 08618 MLM 18752 b

1 AN ACT concerning elections.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**  
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The Election Code is amended by adding Section  
5 17-14.1 as follows:

6 (10 ILCS 5/17-14.1 new)

7 Sec. 17-14.1. Foreign language ballots.

8 (a) As used in this Section:

9 "Election information" means all information necessary for  
10 the public to participate fully and freely in all elections,  
11 including but not limited to, voter registration forms,  
12 candidate qualifying forms (but not nomination petitions),  
13 candidate information pamphlets, voter information pamphlets,  
14 vote by mail and regular ballots, and information about poll  
15 locations and hours of operation. "Election information" shall  
16 not include the website of an election authority, but if an  
17 election authority is required by this Section to provide  
18 foreign language election information anywhere in its  
19 jurisdiction, the front page of the website shall indicate how  
20 persons speaking the foreign language or languages in the  
21 jurisdiction can access foreign language election information.  
22 The indication required in this subsection shall be in the  
23 language or languages of the population that triggered the

1 applicability of this Section.

2 "Foreign language" means Chinese, Korean, Polish, Spanish,  
3 and any combination of Gujarati, Hindi, and Urdu.

4 "Limited English proficiency" means a person who has been  
5 estimated by the American Community Survey to speak English  
6 less than "very well".

7 "Table B16001" means the dataset published by the U.S.  
8 Census Bureau or American Community Survey titled "Language  
9 spoken at home by ability to speak English for the population 5  
10 years and over" and identified as Table B16001, or any  
11 substantially similar dataset the U.S. Census or American  
12 Community Survey publishes following any future survey.

13 (b) On or before June 1, 2018 and then on or before June 1  
14 of every subsequent year ending in a 1 or a 6, each election  
15 authority shall report to the State Board of Elections all  
16 census tracts in its jurisdiction in which Table B16001  
17 demonstrates that the American Community Survey has estimated  
18 that more than 10% of the persons residing within that census  
19 tract who speak the same foreign language have been identified  
20 as having limited English proficiency. The election authority  
21 shall use information from the most recent American Community  
22 Survey estimate. The State Board of Elections shall make this  
23 list publicly available on its website on or before June 30 of  
24 the same year.

25 (c) Beginning with the general election held in 2018, any  
26 election authority reporting census tracts to the State Board

1 of Elections pursuant to subsection (b) of this Section shall  
2 make all election information available in the primary  
3 non-English language of the persons having limited English  
4 proficiency identified in Table B16001. Ballots in these  
5 foreign languages need only be available to voters registered  
6 in the precincts that overlap with the census tracts identified  
7 in the reports required in subsection (b). If the foreign  
8 language that triggers the applicability of this Section is the  
9 combination of Gujarati, Hindi, and Urdu, then ballots shall be  
10 made available in Hindi only, but the election authority shall  
11 make a good-faith effort to recruit Gujarati and Urdu election  
12 judges in precincts that overlap the census tracts where the  
13 American Community Survey estimates Gujarati and Urdu speakers  
14 reside.

15 (d) Nothing in this Section requires an election authority  
16 to make election information available in the primary  
17 non-English language of the Limited English Proficiency  
18 persons prior to June 1, 2018.

19 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon  
20 becoming law.