

1 AN ACT concerning State government.

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

4 Section 1. Short title. This Act may be cited as the
5 Language Access to Government Services Task Force Act.

6 Section 5. Findings. The General Assembly finds the
7 following:

8 (1) Nearly 10% of Illinois' population is limited
9 English proficient, giving Illinois the 5th largest
10 limited English proficient population in the United States
11 at over 1.1 million residents.

12 (2) Language barriers continue to exist for many
13 Illinois residents who are limited English proficient, and
14 these barriers limit their ability to fully participate in
15 civic life and maximize their economic productivity.

16 (3) Language barriers for limited English proficient
17 residents create very real challenges when trying to access
18 information about available government services or an
19 individual's legal rights or obligations under State and
20 local laws.

21 (4) Title VI of the Civil Rights Act requires program
22 recipients of federal funds, such as certain State
23 agencies, to take reasonable steps to ensure that limited

1 English proficient persons have meaningful access to their
2 programs and activities.

3 (5) The public safety, health, economic prosperity,
4 and general welfare of all Illinois residents is furthered
5 by increasing language access to State programs and
6 services.

7 Section 10. The Language Access to Government Services Task
8 Force.

9 (a) There is hereby created the Language Access to
10 Government Services Task Force to study and reduce the language
11 barriers existing among Illinois residents who are limited
12 English proficient, and to maximize their ability to access
13 government services and participate in civic discourse.

14 (b) The Task Force shall consist of the following members:

15 (1) one member of the Senate appointed by the President
16 of the Senate;

17 (2) one member of the Senate appointed by the Minority
18 Leader of the Senate;

19 (3) one member of the House of Representatives
20 appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives;

21 (4) one member of the House of Representatives
22 appointed by the Minority Leader of the House of
23 Representatives;

24 (5) one member appointed by the Governor as a
25 representative of the Governor's Office;

1 (6) one member appointed by the Attorney General as a
2 representative of the Attorney General's Office;

3 (7) one member appointed by the Secretary of State as a
4 representative of the Secretary of State's Office;

5 (8) one member appointed by the Secretary of the
6 Illinois Department of Human Services as a representative
7 of the Department of Human Services;

8 (9) five members appointed by the Governor, upon
9 recommendation of a non-profit organization that promotes
10 civic engagement and advocates on behalf of immigrant
11 communities through a coalition of member organizations
12 that serve Latino, Asian, African, Arab, and European
13 immigrants; and

14 (10) five members appointed by the Governor, upon
15 recommendation of a non-profit organization that promotes
16 civic engagement among Asian American communities and
17 advocates on behalf of Asian American communities through
18 its Pan-Asian coalition.

19 (c) Members of the Task Force shall receive no compensation
20 for serving as members, and shall be appointed within 30 days
21 after the effective date of this Act and begin meeting no later
22 than 30 days after the appointments are finalized, but shall
23 hold its first meeting no later than September 1, 2017. In the
24 event that any appointment required to be made by the Governor
25 under paragraphs (9) and (10) of subsection (b) is not made
26 within 30 days after the effective date of this Act, the

1 Secretary of Human Services shall make such appointments within
2 15 days after the appointment deadline.

3 (d) The Task Force shall elect a chairperson from among its
4 membership, and the Department of Human Services shall provide
5 technical support and assistance to the Task Force and shall be
6 responsible for administering its operations and ensuring that
7 the requirements of this Act are met. The Task Force may
8 otherwise consult with any persons or entities it deems
9 necessary to carry out its purposes.

10 Section 15. Duties of the Language Access to Government
11 Services Task Force. The duties of the Task Force shall consist
12 of the following:

13 (1) review existing language access laws or ordinances
14 in other parts of the country, including existing reports
15 or academic publications on such laws or ordinances;

16 (2) evaluate their effectiveness in eliminating
17 language barriers for limited English proficient
18 communities;

19 (3) consider any other available and relevant
20 information on language access issues in Illinois,
21 including census data, community feedback, or surveys;

22 (4) identify and recommend specific best-practices and
23 provisions for a State language access law; and

24 (5) produce a final report summarizing the Task Force's
25 findings and detailing its specific recommendations for a

1 State language access law and highlight any areas of major
2 disagreement within the Task Force.

3 Section 20. Report. The Task Force shall submit its final
4 report with findings and recommendations to the General
5 Assembly, the Governor, and the Attorney General on or before
6 July 1, 2018.

7 Section 25. Repeal. This Act is repealed on December 31,
8 2018.

9 Section 100. The Legislative Information System Act is
10 amended by changing Section 5.09 as follows:

11 (25 ILCS 145/5.09)

12 Sec. 5.09. Public computer access; legislative
13 information. To make available to the public all of the
14 following information in electronic form:

15 (1) On or before July 1, 1999, the weekly schedule of
16 legislative floor sessions for each of the 2 houses of the
17 General Assembly together with a list of matters pending
18 before them and the weekly schedule of legislative
19 committee hearings together with matters scheduled for
20 their consideration.

21 (2) On or before July 1, 1999, a list of the committees
22 of the General Assembly and their members.

1 (3) On or before July 1, 1999, the text of each bill
2 and resolution introduced and of each engrossed, enrolled,
3 and re-enrolled bill and resolution and the text of each
4 adopted amendment and conference committee report.

5 (4) On or before July 1, 1999, a synopsis of items
6 specified in paragraph (3) of this Section, together with a
7 summary of legislative and gubernatorial actions regarding
8 each bill and resolution introduced.

9 (5) On or before July 1, 1999, the Rules of the House
10 and the Senate of the General Assembly.

11 (6) Before the conclusion of the Ninety-second General
12 Assembly, the text of Public Acts.

13 (7) Before the conclusion of the Ninety-second General
14 Assembly, the Illinois Compiled Statutes.

15 (8) Before the conclusion of the Ninety-second General
16 Assembly, the Constitution of the United States and the
17 Constitution of the State of Illinois.

18 (9) Before the conclusion of the Ninety-second General
19 Assembly, the text of the Illinois Administrative Code.

20 (10) Before the conclusion of the Ninety-second
21 General Assembly, the most current issue of the Illinois
22 Register published on or after the effective date of this
23 amendatory Act of 1998.

24 (11) Any other information that the Joint Committee on
25 Legislative Support Services elects to make available.

26 The information shall be made available to the public

1 through a website maintained by the System ~~the World Wide Web~~.
2 The information may also be made available by any other means
3 of access that would facilitate public access to the
4 information.

5 Any documentation that describes the electronic digital
6 formats of the information shall be made available through a
7 website maintained by the System ~~the World Wide Web~~.

8 Personal information concerning a person who accesses this
9 public information may be maintained only for the purpose of
10 providing service to the person.

11 No fee or other charge may be imposed by the Legislative
12 Information System as a condition of accessing the information,
13 except that a reasonable fee may be charged for any customized
14 services and shall be deposited into the General Assembly
15 Computer Equipment Revolving Fund.

16 The electronic public access provided through the System's
17 website ~~World Wide Web~~ shall be in addition to any other
18 electronic or print distribution of the information.

19 Within one-year after the effective date of this amendatory
20 Act of the 100th General Assembly, to the extent practicable,
21 the System shall use a free translation tool to enable
22 translation into multiple languages of the information made
23 available to the public through the website maintained by the
24 System. The translation tool shall, at a minimum, translate the
25 following content on the website maintained by the System: the
26 home page; information regarding the members of the House of

1 Representatives and the Senate, including, but not limited to,
2 each member's biography, committee assignments, and sponsored
3 bills; information regarding the membership of, bills assigned
4 to, and meeting schedules of each standing and special
5 committee of the House of Representatives and the Senate;
6 information on the procedural status of each bill and
7 resolution, together with any amendments thereto, and
8 appointment message filed in the House of Representatives or
9 the Senate, including both general information and
10 user-selected information (through the "My Legislation"
11 function or otherwise), but not including the synopsis or text
12 of any bill or resolution, or any amendment thereto, or any
13 appointment message, Public Act, or Executive Order;
14 information regarding previous General Assemblies, not
15 including the synopsis or text of any bill or resolution, or
16 any amendment thereto, or any appointment message, Public Act,
17 or Executive Order; contact information for the General
18 Assembly, legislative support service agencies, and other
19 related offices in the Capitol Complex; and information
20 regarding access for persons with disabilities. The System may,
21 in its discretion, provide for additional content to be
22 translated. The languages available for translation shall be
23 those provided by the translation tool. Before a user accesses
24 translated information, the System shall ensure that a
25 disclaimer is first displayed, stating that: the translated
26 information is offered as a convenience and should not be

1 considered accurate as to the translation of the text in
2 question; and the English language version is the official and
3 authoritative version of the text in question.

4 No action taken under this Section shall be deemed to alter
5 or relinquish any copyright or other proprietary interest or
6 entitlement of the State of Illinois relating to any of the
7 information made available under this Section.

8 The information shall be made available as provided in this
9 Section in the shortest practicable time after it is publicly
10 available in any other form; provided that the System may make
11 information available under this Section only if the
12 availability in no way reduces the quality and timeliness of
13 service available to and required under this Act for
14 legislative users and does not unduly burden the General
15 Assembly or its support services agencies. Failure to provide
16 information under this Section does not affect the validity of
17 any action of the General Assembly. The General Assembly and
18 the State of Illinois are not liable for the accuracy,
19 availability, or use of the information provided under this
20 Section.

21 (Source: P.A. 90-666, eff. 7-30-98.)

22 Section 999. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
23 becoming law.