

JAN 12 2001

STATE GOVERNMENT

HOUSE FILE 49
BY MILLAGE

Passed House, Date _____ Passed Senate, Date _____
Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____ Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____
Approved _____

A BILL FOR

1 An Act establishing English as the official language of the
2 state.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

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HF 49

1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. 1.18 OFFICIAL LANGUAGE OF STATE.

2 The official language of the state shall be the English
3 language and all official proceedings, records, and
4 publications shall be in the English language. This English
5 language requirement shall not apply to communications
6 intended for persons who are deaf or blind. The requirements
7 of this section establishing English as the official language
8 of the state shall not apply to any of the following:

9 1. To public employees in the oral or verbal, as opposed
10 to written, performance of government business if necessary
11 for effective communications.

12 2. To instruction in foreign language classes.

13 3. To instruction designed to aid students with limited
14 English proficiency.

15 4. When deemed to interfere with the needs of the judicial
16 system.

17 5. When public health, safety, and emergency services
18 require the use of other languages.

19 6. To the promotion of international commerce and tourism.

20 7. To any oral or written communications, examinations, or
21 publications produced or utilized by a driver's license
22 station, provided public safety is not jeopardized.

23 8. To personal communications relating to a particular
24 student and sent home from a school with that student. Such
25 communications may be in a language other than English if a
26 non-English language is necessary for effective
27 communications.

28 9. To any publication of any division of the department of
29 human rights. Written material produced by the divisions of
30 the department of human rights relating to any matter within
31 the scope of their authority may be published in any language
32 necessary to effectively communicate with the intended
33 recipients of the material.

34 EXPLANATION

35 This bill establishes English as the official language of

1 the state, to be utilized in official proceedings, records,
2 and publications. Several exceptions to the provisions are
3 specified.

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