

As Introduced	1.4
118th General Assembly	1.6
Regular Session	S. B. No. 141 1.7
1989-1990	1.8
MESSRS. SNYDER-SCHAFRATH-SUHADOLNIK-WATTS	1.10
<hr/>	
A B I L L ..	1.12
To enact section 5.15 of the Revised Code to	1.14
designate English as the official language of	1.15
Ohio and to require the use of the English	1.16
language by state and local government agencies,	
officers, and employees in official actions and	1.17
proceedings, subject to certain exceptions.	1.18
BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:	1.21
Section 1. That section 5.15 of the Revised Code be	1.23
enacted to read as follows:	1.24
Sec. 5.15. (A) AS USED IN THIS SECTION:	1.26
(1) "STATE AGENCY" MEANS EVERY ORGANIZED BODY, OFFICE, OR	1.28
AGENCY, INCLUDING THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND THE COURTS,	1.29
ESTABLISHED BY THE LAWS OF THIS STATE FOR THE EXERCISE OF ANY	1.30
FUNCTION OF STATE GOVERNMENT.	1.31
(2) "POLITICAL SUBDIVISION" MEANS A MUNICIPAL CORPORATION,	1.33
TOWNSHIP, COUNTY, SCHOOL DISTRICT, OR ANY OTHER BODY CORPORATE	1.34
AND POLITIC RESPONSIBLE FOR GOVERNMENTAL ACTIVITIES ONLY IN A	1.35
GEOGRAPHIC AREA SMALLER THAN THAT OF THIS STATE.	1.36
(B) THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE IS THE OFFICIAL LANGUAGE OF THIS	2.3
STATE. EACH STATE AGENCY AND POLITICAL SUBDIVISION SHALL TAKE	2.4
ALL REASONABLE STEPS TO PRESERVE, PROTECT, AND ENHANCE THE ROLE	2.5
OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE AS THE OFFICIAL LANGUAGE OF THIS STATE.	2.6
(C) EXCEPT AS OTHERWISE PROVIDED IN DIVISION (D) OF THIS	2.9
SECTION:	
(1) THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE IS THE LANGUAGE OF THE BALLOT,	2.11
THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS, AND ALL FUNCTIONS AND ACTIONS OF EACH STATE	2.12
AGENCY AND POLITICAL SUBDIVISION.	2.13

(2) EACH STATE AGENCY AND POLITICAL SUBDIVISION, AND ITS OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES WHEN PERFORMING OFFICIAL BUSINESS, SHALL ACT ONLY IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE.

(3) NO STATE AGENCY OR POLITICAL SUBDIVISION SHALL ENACT, ISSUE, OR ENFORCE A LAW, RULE, ORDER, ORDINANCE, RESOLUTION, DECREE, DECISION, OR POLICY THAT REQUIRES THE USE OF A LANGUAGE OTHER THAN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE.

(4) NO LAW, RULE, ORDER, ORDINANCE, RESOLUTION, DECREE, DECISION, OR POLICY OF A STATE AGENCY OR POLITICAL SUBDIVISION IS VALID OR ENFORCEABLE UNLESS WRITTEN IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE, AND NO DOCUMENT OF A STATE AGENCY OR POLITICAL SUBDIVISION SHALL BE WRITTEN IN A LANGUAGE OTHER THAN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE.

(D) A STATE AGENCY OR POLITICAL SUBDIVISION OR ITS OFFICERS OR EMPLOYEES MAY ACT IN A LANGUAGE OTHER THAN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE UNDER ANY OF THE FOLLOWING CIRCUMSTANCES:

(1) TO ASSIST STUDENTS NOT PROFICIENT IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE, TO THE EXTENT REQUIRED BY FEDERAL LAW, BY GIVING EDUCATIONAL INSTRUCTION IN A LANGUAGE OTHER THAN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE TO PROVIDE THE MOST RAPID TRANSITION POSSIBLE TO THE USE OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE BY THESE STUDENTS;

(2) TO COMPLY WITH ANY FEDERAL LAW OTHER THAN ONE DESCRIBED IN DIVISION (D)(1) OF THIS SECTION;

(3) TO TEACH A STUDENT A FOREIGN LANGUAGE AS PART OF A REQUIRED OR VOLUNTARY EDUCATIONAL CURRICULUM;

(4) TO PROTECT THE PUBLIC HEALTH OR SAFETY;

(5) TO PROTECT THE RIGHTS OF PARTIES AND WITNESSES IN A CIVIL OR CRIMINAL ACTION IN A COURT OR IN AN ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEEDING.

(E) A PERSON WHO RESIDES IN OR DOES BUSINESS IN THIS STATE AND WHO DETERMINES THAT THIS SECTION IS NOT BEING OBSERVED MAY BRING AN ACTION IN THE APPROPRIATE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS TO ENFORCE, OR ENJOIN A VIOLATION OF, THIS SECTION OR MAY NOTIFY THE ATTORNEY GENERAL OF THE ALLEGED VIOLATION. IF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL IS SO NOTIFIED AND DETERMINES THAT THIS SECTION IS NOT BEING OBSERVED, HE SHALL BRING AN ACTION IN THE APPROPRIATE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS TO ENFORCE, OR ENJOIN A VIOLATION OF, THIS SECTION.