

HOUSE BILL No. 4053

January 18, 2017, Introduced by Reps. Barrett, Cole, Miller, Glenn, Theis, Lucido,
Hernandez and Chatfield and referred to the Committee on Government Operations.

A bill to designate English as the official state language; to require the use of English in certain documents and at certain public meetings; and to provide the powers and duties of certain state and local agencies and officials.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

1 Sec. 1. English is designated as the official language of this
2 state.

3 Sec. 2. Subject to sections 4 and 5, English shall be the
4 language used for all of the following:

5 (a) Each public record, as defined in section 2 of the freedom
6 of information act, 1976 PA 442, MCL 15.232.

7 (b) Each meeting, as defined in section 2 of the open meetings
8 act, 1976 PA 267, MCL 15.262.

9 (c) Official acts of this state, including those governmental
10 documents, records, meetings, actions, or policies that are legally

1 enforceable in this state.

2 Sec. 3. This act shall not be construed in any way to deny a
3 person's rights under the state constitution of 1963 or the
4 constitution of the United States or any state or federal law as a
5 result of that person's inability to communicate in English.

6 Sec. 4. (1) In addition to printing official documents and
7 forms in English, a state agency or a local unit of government may
8 use or print official documents and forms in languages other than
9 English.

10 (2) A document filed or recorded with a state agency or with a
11 local unit of government shall be in English or, if the original
12 document is in a language other than English, an English
13 translation of the document shall be simultaneously filed.

14 Sec. 5. (1) This act does not apply under any of the following
15 circumstances:

16 (a) If there is a conflict with federal law.

17 (b) If the public safety, health, or justice requires the use
18 of languages other than English.

19 (2) This act does not apply to any of the following:

20 (a) Instruction designed to teach the speaking, reading, or
21 writing of foreign languages.

22 (b) Instruction designed to aid students with limited English
23 proficiency in their transition and integration into the education
24 system of this state.

25 (c) The promotion of international commerce, tourism, sporting
26 events, or cultural events.