
SENATE BILL NO. 325—SENATORS BEERS,
HECK, CEGAVSKE AND HARDY

MARCH 19, 2007

JOINT SPONSORS: ASSEMBLYMEN BEERS, HARDY,
COBB, GOEDHART, GRADY AND MARVEL

Referred to Committee on Government Affairs

SUMMARY—Makes various changes concerning the English language. (BDR 19-760)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No.
Effect on the State: No.

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EXPLANATION – Matter in *bolded italics* is new; matter between brackets ~~omitted material~~ is material to be omitted.

AN ACT relating to governmental administration; designating English as the official language of the State of Nevada; requiring certain proceedings, records and publications of this State to be in English; prohibiting certain employment discrimination by governmental officers and agencies; requiring state agencies to record certain expenditures made to provide services in a language other than English; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel’s Digest:

1 **Section 1** of this bill designates English as the official language of the State of
2 Nevada and, with limited exceptions, requires that all official proceedings of the
3 State be conducted in English, requires all official records of the State to be
4 prepared, stored and made available in English, and requires all official
5 publications of the State to be printed in English.
6 Existing law prohibits employment discrimination by state and local
7 governmental officers and agencies based on race, creed, color, national origin, sex,
8 sexual orientation, age, political affiliation or disability except when based on a
9 bona fide occupational qualification. (NRS 281.370) **Section 2** of this bill adds to
10 this list of prohibited bases of employment discrimination the inability of a person
11 to converse in a language other than English.



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12 **Section 3** of this bill requires state agencies to record expenditures made to
13 provide services in languages other than English.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN
SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

1 **Section 1.** Chapter 235 of NRS is hereby amended by adding
2 thereto a new section to read as follows:

3 *1. English is hereby designated as the official language of the*
4 *State of Nevada.*

5 *2. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 3:*

6 *(a) All official proceedings of this State must be conducted in*
7 *the English language.*

8 *(b) All official records of this State must be prepared, stored*
9 *and made available in the English language.*

10 *(c) All official publications of this State must be printed in the*
11 *English language.*

12 *3. The provisions of subsection 2 do not apply to:*

13 *(a) State employees when conducting official state business*
14 *orally.*

15 *(b) Classes that teach students a language other than English.*

16 *(c) Classes that teach students whose proficiency in the English*
17 *language is limited.*

18 *(d) Situations in which the exclusive use of the English*
19 *language would interfere with the functions and requirements of*
20 *the judicial system of this State.*

21 *(e) Situations in which the exclusive use of the English*
22 *language would interfere with public health or safety or the*
23 *provision of emergency services.*

24 *(f) The promotion of international trade or tourism by an*
25 *officer, employee or agent of this State.*

26 *4. Notwithstanding the provisions of any other specific*
27 *statute:*

28 *(a) No court of this State has jurisdiction to hear a claim*
29 *against this State that is based solely on the failure of this State to*
30 *provide copies of statutes, regulations, reports, forms or other*
31 *documents in a language other than English.*

32 *(b) Neither this State nor an officer, employee or agent of this*
33 *State is liable, civilly or criminally, for an act or omission*
34 *committed to carry out the provisions of subsection 2.*

35 **Sec. 2.** NRS 281.370 is hereby amended to read as follows:

36 281.370 1. All personnel actions taken by state, county or
37 municipal departments, housing authorities, agencies, boards or
38 appointing officers thereof must be based solely on merit and
39 fitness.



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1 2. State, county or municipal departments, housing authorities,
2 agencies, boards or appointing officers thereof shall not refuse to
3 hire a person, discharge or bar any person from employment or
4 discriminate against any person in compensation or in other terms or
5 conditions of employment because of his race, creed, color, national
6 origin, sex, sexual orientation, age, *inability to converse in a*
7 *language other than English*, political affiliation or disability,
8 except when based upon a bona fide occupational qualification.

9 3. As used in this section:

10 (a) "Disability" means, with respect to a person:

11 (1) A physical or mental impairment that substantially limits
12 one or more of the major life activities of the person;

13 (2) A record of such an impairment; or

14 (3) Being regarded as having such an impairment.

15 (b) "Sexual orientation" means having or being perceived as
16 having an orientation for heterosexuality, homosexuality or
17 bisexuality.

18 **Sec. 3.** Chapter 353 of NRS is hereby amended by adding
19 thereto a new section to read as follows:

20 *1. A state agency shall record each expenditure made by the*
21 *state agency to provide services in a language other than English,*
22 *including, without limitation, the preparation, translation, printing*
23 *and recording of documents, papers and brochures. Such*
24 *expenditures must be set forth separately in the budget estimates*
25 *of the state agency.*

26 *2. As used in this section, "state agency" means an agency,*
27 *bureau, board, commission, department, division or any other unit*
28 *of the Executive, Judicial or Legislative Branch of State*
29 *Government.*

