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SENATE BILL NO. 188—SENATORS GUSTAVSON;  
CEGAVSKE, GOICOECHEA AND SETTELMAYER

FEBRUARY 25, 2013

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JOINT SPONSORS: ASSEMBLYMEN WHEELER, HANSEN,  
ELLISON; LIVERMORE AND STEWART

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Referred to Committee on Government Affairs

SUMMARY—Designates English as the official language of the  
State of Nevada. (BDR 19-431)

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.

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AN ACT relating to governmental administration; designating  
English as the official language of the State of Nevada;  
requiring certain governmental documents, transactions,  
proceedings, meetings and publications to be in English;  
and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

**Legislative Counsel's Digest:**

- 1 This bill designates English as the official language of the State of Nevada and,  
2 with limited exceptions, requires that all official governmental documents,  
3 transactions, proceedings, meetings and publications be in the English language.

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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. As the official language of this State, the English language*  
6 *is the sole language of State Government and its political*  
7 *subdivisions, except as otherwise provided in this section.*



1       **3. All official documents, transactions, proceedings, meetings**  
2 **and publications issued, conducted or regulated by, on behalf of,**  
3 **or representing the State or its political subdivisions must be in**  
4 **English, except that a language other than English may be used**  
5 **when required:**

6       **(a) By the Constitution of the United States, the Constitution**  
7 **of the State of Nevada, or a federal statute or regulation;**

8       **(b) To protect public health and safety;**

9       **(c) In judicial proceedings to ensure that justice is carried out;**

10       **(d) To refer to a proper name, a term of art or a phrase from a**  
11 **language other than English;**

12       **(e) To promote commerce, trade or tourism;**

13       **(f) To provide instruction in a foreign language; and**

14       **(g) To facilitate activities relating to conducting any census of**  
15 **populations.**

