

BY adding to

Article 41 – Governor – Executive and Administrative Departments

Section 18-205

Annotated Code of Maryland

(1993 Replacement Volume)

**Preamble**

~~WHEREAS, Maryland is comprised of people from many ethnic, cultural, and linguistic backgrounds, each of whom have contributed to this State the richness of their heritages; and~~

~~WHEREAS, Maryland has been greatly enriched by this diversity, and the government should always take steps to promote the dignity of all the heritages that form this State's pluralistic society; and~~

~~WHEREAS, The people of Maryland, despite their many differences, have lived together productively as citizens of this nation, and the use of a common official language will continue the promotion of this goal; and~~

~~WHEREAS, More than ninety languages are spoken in Maryland today, and language has the power to unite or divide the people of differing backgrounds and heritages; and~~

~~WHEREAS, English has become the only language that crosses all ethnic, racial, and cultural lines; and~~

~~WHEREAS, The absence of a common language among diverse people encourages segregation along language lines and places at great disadvantage individuals who are of limited proficiency in English; and~~

~~WHEREAS, The use of a common language in no way discourages people from maintaining fluency in their native language and becoming fluent in foreign language; and~~

~~WHEREAS, English is the international language of aviation, navigation, technology, science, business, and electronic communications; and~~

~~WHEREAS, Knowledge of a common language is essential to the democratic processes of government and the full exercise of constitutional freedoms, informed and knowledgeable empowerment as voters, citizen checks against government abuses, and individual prosperity and independence; and~~

~~WHEREAS, The use of a common language as the common official language in Maryland will ensure a uniform means of access to public documents and communications in the State; and~~

~~WHEREAS, The use of a common language as the common official language does not mean that English would be the only language permitted to be used in this State; and~~

~~WHEREAS, The use of a common language as the common official language does not interfere with or contradict the teaching of other languages in schools or with the use of other languages in churches, in business, or in trade and commerce; and~~