

~~WHEREAS, It is not the purpose of this Act, nor shall this Act be construed, to infringe upon the rights of citizens to exercise the use of a primary language of their choice for private conduct, including in the home and in religious institutions; and~~

~~WHEREAS, It is not the purpose of this Act, nor shall this Act be construed, to dictate language policies for the operation and administration of organizations or businesses in the unregulated private sector; and~~

~~WHEREAS, It is the purpose of this Act, to recognize the government's affirmative responsibility to encourage and ensure greater opportunities for individuals to learn the common language, as recognized by this Act; and~~

~~WHEREAS, The recognition of the English language as the common official language of the State of Maryland sends a strong, positive, motivating message to all children, youth, and adults that proficiency in reading and speaking English is necessary to one's advancement:~~

~~(1) Scholastically, since English proficiency aids in the successful achievement of elementary and secondary education, and postsecondary learning;~~

~~(2) Economically, through the development of skills to find a job and to move up the employment ladder;~~

~~(3) Socially, in the development of peer relationships, self esteem, and effective community involvement; and~~

~~(4) Politically, as a tool to gain political empowerment through effective voting and other political activity; and~~

~~WHEREAS, It is only fitting and proper that we recognize the continuing, unifying role that the English language plays in the stability and cohesion of the lives of the people of this State; now, therefore,~~

Preamble

~~WHEREAS, Maryland is comprised of people from many ethnic, cultural, and linguistic backgrounds, each of whom has contributed to this State the richness of their heritage; 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, It is not the purpose of this Act nor may this Act be construed, to infringe upon the rights of citizens to exercise the use of a language of their choice for private conduct; now, therefore,~~

~~SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED, BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:~~

~~Article 41 – Governor – Executive and Administrative Departments~~