

information; requiring the Department of Human Resources to make certain recommendations and develop certain budgets if certain conditions exist; requiring the Department of Human Resources and the Department of Planning to prepare certain estimates; requiring the Department of Human Resources to issue a certain report on or before a certain date; and providing for the termination of this Act.

BY adding to

Article — State Government

Section 10-1101 through 10-1103, inclusive, to be under the new subtitle
"Subtitle 11. Language Access"

Annotated Code of Maryland

(1999 Replacement Volume and 2000 Supplement)

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

Article — State Government

SUBTITLE 11. LANGUAGE ACCESS.

~~10-1101.~~

~~THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FINDS THAT THE INABILITY TO SPEAK AND UNDERSTAND THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE IS A BARRIER THAT PREVENTS ACCESS TO STATE DEPARTMENTS, AGENCIES, AND PROGRAMS, AND THAT THE SERVICES AVAILABLE THROUGH THESE ENTITIES ARE ESSENTIAL TO THE WELFARE OF MARYLAND RESIDENTS. IT IS THE POLICY OF THE STATE THAT STATE DEPARTMENTS, AGENCIES, AND PROGRAMS SHALL PROVIDE EQUAL ACCESS TO PUBLIC SERVICES TO PERSONS WITH LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY.~~

~~10-1102.~~

~~(A) IN THIS SUBTITLE THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS INDICATED:~~

~~(B) "EQUAL ACCESS" MEANS TO BE INFORMED OF, PARTICIPATE IN, AND BENEFIT FROM SERVICES OFFERED BY A STATE DEPARTMENT, AGENCY, OR PROGRAM, AT A LEVEL EQUAL TO ENGLISH PROFICIENT PERSONS.~~

~~(C) "FORMS AND DOCUMENTS" MEANS ALL APPLICATIONS, EDUCATIONAL OR INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS, NOTICES, AND COMPLAINT FORMS OFFERED BY STATE DEPARTMENTS, AGENCIES, AND PROGRAMS.~~

~~(D) "LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY" MEANS THE INABILITY TO ADEQUATELY UNDERSTAND OR EXPRESS ONESELF IN THE SPOKEN OR WRITTEN ENGLISH LANGUAGE.~~

~~(E) "PROGRAM" MEANS ALL OF THE OPERATIONS OF A STATE DEPARTMENT, STATE AGENCY, OR ANY OTHER INSTRUMENTALITY OF THE STATE.~~