

House Bill No. 1174

AN ACT concerning

State Government - Equal Access to State Agencies Public Services - Persons Individuals with Limited English Proficiency

FOR the purpose of stating the intent of the General Assembly that State ~~departments, agencies, and programs shall~~ provide equal access to public services for services to persons individuals with limited English proficiency; requiring certain State departments, agencies, and programs to provide certain oral language services under certain circumstances; requiring certain documents ~~distributed to the public by State agencies to be translated by certain State departments, agencies, and programs~~ into any language spoken by a certain percentage of any limited English proficient population within the a certain geographic service area of a local office of a State agency, and that such documents be available as needed for distribution on a statewide basis under certain circumstances; ~~requiring State agencies to promulgate certain regulations by a certain date establishing a certain schedule for the implementation of the certain requirements of this Act by certain State departments, agencies, and programs;~~ providing for the construction of this Act; requiring certain State departments, agencies, and programs to monitor their operations to make a certain determination under certain circumstances; requiring the Department of Human Resources to provide certain assistance to State departments, agencies, and programs under certain circumstances; requiring the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene and the Secretary of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation to provide a certain report to the General Assembly; defining certain terms; and generally relating to equal access to State agencies by public services for persons individuals with limited English proficiency.

BY adding to

Article - State Government

Section 10-1101 through ~~10-1103~~ 10-1105, inclusive, to be under the new subtitle "Subtitle 11. Language Access Equal Access to Public Services for Individuals with Limited English Proficiency"

Annotated Code of Maryland

(1999 Replacement Volume and 2001 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~~ EQUAL ACCESS TO PUBLIC SERVICES FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY.

10-1101.

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FINDS THAT THE INABILITY TO SPEAK, UNDERSTAND, OR READ THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE IS A BARRIER THAT PREVENTS ACCESS TO