

Chapter 564

(House Bill 1144)

AN ACT concerning

**County Boards of Education – Equal Access to Public Services for Individuals With Limited English Proficiency**

FOR the purpose of ~~requiring certain county boards of education to fully implement a certain requirement to provide equal access to public services for individuals with limited English proficiency on or before a certain date; making conforming changes requiring county boards to take certain reasonable steps to provide equal access to public services for certain individuals with limited English proficiency;~~ and generally relating to county boards of education and equal access to public services for individuals with limited English proficiency.

BY adding to

Article – Education  
Section 4–135  
Annotated Code of Maryland  
(2018 Replacement Volume and 2018 Supplement)

~~BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,~~

~~Article – State Government  
Section 10–1103(a)  
Annotated Code of Maryland  
(2014 Replacement Volume and 2018 Supplement)~~

~~BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,~~

~~Article – State Government  
Section 10–1103(b)  
Annotated Code of Maryland  
(2014 Replacement Volume and 2018 Supplement)~~

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

**Article – Education**

**4–135.**

~~ON OR BEFORE JULY 1, 2022, EACH COUNTY BOARD SHALL FULLY IMPLEMENT THE REQUIREMENTS OF § 10–1103 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE TO PROVIDE EQUAL ACCESS TO PUBLIC SERVICES FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY.~~

(A) EACH COUNTY BOARD SHALL TAKE REASONABLE STEPS TO PROVIDE EQUAL ACCESS TO PUBLIC SERVICES FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY.

(B) REASONABLE STEPS TO PROVIDE EQUAL ACCESS TO PUBLIC SERVICES UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION INCLUDE:

(1) THE PROVISION OF ORAL LANGUAGE SERVICES FOR PARENTS AND GUARDIANS WITH LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY, WHICH MUST BE THROUGH FACE-TO-FACE, IN-HOUSE ORAL LANGUAGE SERVICES IF IN-PERSON CONTACT IS ON A WEEKLY OR MORE FREQUENT BASIS; AND

(2) THE TRANSLATION OF VITAL DOCUMENTS ORDINARILY PROVIDED TO THE PUBLIC INTO ANY LANGUAGE SPOKEN BY ANY LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENT POPULATION THAT CONSTITUTES AT LEAST 3% OF THE OVERALL POPULATION WITHIN THE COUNTY AS MEASURED BY THE UNITED STATES CENSUS.

~~Article State Government~~

~~10-1103.~~

~~(a) Each State department, agency, or program listed or identified under subsection (c) of this section shall take reasonable steps to provide equal access to public services for individuals with limited English proficiency.~~

~~(b) Reasonable steps to provide equal access to public services include:~~

~~(1) the provision of oral language services for individuals with limited English proficiency, which must be through face to face, in-house oral language services if contact between the agency and individuals with limited English proficiency is on a weekly or more frequent basis;~~

~~(2) (i) the translation of vital documents ordinarily provided to the public into any language spoken by any limited English proficient population that constitutes 3% of the overall population within the geographic area served by a local office of a State program OR A COUNTY BOARD, AS DEFINED IN § 1-101 OF THE EDUCATION ARTICLE, as measured by the United States Census; and~~

~~(ii) the provision of vital documents translated under item (i) of this item on a statewide basis to any local office OR A COUNTY BOARD, AS DEFINED IN § 1-101 OF THE EDUCATION ARTICLE, as necessary; and~~

~~(3) any additional methods or means necessary to achieve equal access to public services.~~

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2019.

**Approved by the Governor, May 13, 2019.**