

HOUSE BILL 886

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HB 885/07 – HGO

8lr2088

By: **Delegates McDonough, Aumann, Bates, Beitzel, Boteler, Bromwell, Costa, DeBoy, Dwyer, Eckardt, Elliott, Elmore, Frank, George, Haddaway, Impallaria, Jennings, Kach, King, Kipke, Krebs, Malone, McComas, McKee, Miller, Minnick, Norman, O'Donnell, Olszewski, Riley, Schuh, Shank, Shewell, Smigiel, Sossi, Stifler, Stocksdale, Stull, Walkup, Weir, Weldon, and Wood**

Introduced and read first time: February 6, 2008
Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **English Language – Formal Recognition**

3 FOR the purpose of designating the English language as the official language of the
4 State of Maryland; making provisions of this Act severable; and generally
5 relating to the formal recognition of English as the official language of the State
6 of Maryland.

7 BY adding to
8 Article – State Government
9 Section 10–1301 to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 13. Official Language of
10 the State of Maryland”
11 Annotated Code of Maryland
12 (2004 Replacement Volume and 2007 Supplement)

13 Preamble

14 WHEREAS, Maryland comprises people from many ethnic, cultural, and
15 linguistic backgrounds, all of whom have contributed to this State the richness of their
16 heritages; and

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

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 WHEREAS, It is not the purpose of this Act nor may this Act be construed to
2 infringe on the rights of citizens to exercise the use of a language of their choice for
3 private conduct; now, therefore,

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

6 **Article - State Government**

7 **SUBTITLE 13. OFFICIAL LANGUAGE OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND.**

8 **10-1301.**

9 (A) (1) ENGLISH IS RECOGNIZED AS THE OFFICIAL LANGUAGE OF
10 GOVERNMENT OF THIS STATE.

11 (2) AS THE OFFICIAL LANGUAGE OF THE STATE, ENGLISH IS THE
12 LANGUAGE OF GOVERNMENT FUNCTIONS AND ACTIONS.

13 (B) THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SECTION APPLY TO:

14 (1) THE LEGISLATIVE, EXECUTIVE, AND JUDICIAL BRANCHES OF
15 GOVERNMENT; AND

16 (2) THE STATE AND EACH POLITICAL SUBDIVISION AND
17 MUNICIPAL CORPORATION OF THE STATE, INCLUDING EACH DEPARTMENT,
18 AGENCY, UNIT, ORGANIZATION, AND INSTRUMENTALITY THEREOF.

19 (C) AN ENTITY SUBJECT TO THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SECTION SHALL:

20 (1) WRITE AND PUBLISH EACH OFFICIAL DOCUMENT IN ENGLISH;
21 AND

22 (2) CONDUCT EACH MEETING AND OTHER OFFICIAL ORAL
23 COMMUNICATION IT AUTHORIZES IN ENGLISH.

24 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That if any provision of this
25 Act or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid for any
26 reason in a court of competent jurisdiction, the invalidity does not affect other
27 provisions or any other application of this Act that can be given effect without the
28 invalid provision or application, and for this purpose the provisions of this Act are
29 declared severable.

30 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
31 October 1, 2008.