

HOUSE BILL 1473

P1

(5lr2792)

ENROLLED BILL

— *Health and Government Operations/Education, Energy, and the Environment* —

Introduced by **Delegates Acevero, Addison, Alston, Amprey, Fair, Fennell, Harris, Hill, Kerr, Lehman, R. Lewis, Martinez, Mireku-North, Roberson, Ruff, Sample-Hughes, Simmons, Simpson, Smith, Taveras, Turner, Williams, Woods, Woorman, and Young** ~~Young~~ **Young, Bagnall, Bhandari, Cullison, Guzzone, S. Johnson, Kaiser, Lopez, Pena-Melnyk, Rosenberg, Ross, and White Holland**

Read and Examined by Proofreaders:

Proofreader.

Proofreader.

Sealed with the Great Seal and presented to the Governor, for his approval this

_____ day of _____ at _____ o'clock, _____ M.

Speaker.

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **State Government – Equal Access to Public Services for Individuals With**
3 **Limited English Proficiency and Individuals With Disabilities**

4 FOR the purpose of *requiring the Governor’s Office of Immigrant Affairs and the*
5 *Department of Disabilities to convene an advisory group to make findings and*
6 *recommendations on oversight, monitoring, investigation, and enforcement of certain*
7 *provisions of law relating to equal access to public services for certain individuals;*
8 altering provisions of law relating to equal access to public services for individuals
9 with limited English proficiency to include individuals with disabilities; establishing
10 certain requirements for equal access to public services for certain State

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.

Italics indicate opposite chamber/conference committee amendments.



1 departments, agencies, or programs, including developing a language access plan for
 2 certain individuals; ~~requiring the Governor's Office of Immigrant Affairs to oversee,~~
 3 ~~monitor, investigate, and enforce certain provisions of law;~~ requiring certain State
 4 departments, agencies, and programs to implement certain provisions of law on or
 5 before certain dates; and generally relating to equal access to public services for
 6 individuals with limited English proficiency and individuals with disabilities.

7 ~~BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,~~
 8 ~~Article – State Government~~
 9 ~~Section 9–3301(a) and (c)~~
 10 ~~Annotated Code of Maryland~~
 11 ~~(2021 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)~~

12 ~~BY adding to~~
 13 ~~Article – State Government~~
 14 ~~Section 9–3303.1~~
 15 ~~Annotated Code of Maryland~~
 16 ~~(2021 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)~~

17 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
 18 Article – State Government
 19 Section 10–1102 and 10–1103
 20 Annotated Code of Maryland
 21 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

22 BY adding to
 23 Article – State Government
 24 Section 10–1103.1
 25 Annotated Code of Maryland
 26 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

27 Preamble

28 WHEREAS, Maryland is a state rich in diverse languages and cultures with more
 29 than 333,000 residents who identify as having limited English proficiency; and

30 WHEREAS, More than 670,000 Marylanders live with a disability or identify as
 31 having limited English proficiency; and

32 WHEREAS, Limited English proficiency designations are impacted by the context,
 33 such as school, courtroom, and online applications, and type of communication, such as
 34 speaking, writing, and reading; and

35 WHEREAS, An individual's primary and preferred language should never be a
 36 barrier to access public services; and

1 WHEREAS, Certain departments, agencies, and programs in State government have
 2 a duty to provide meaningful access to programs and services to all Marylanders, including
 3 individuals with limited English proficiency; and

4 WHEREAS, It is in the interest and obligation of the State to ensure that individuals
 5 with limited English proficiency are treated with dignity and respect and provided timely
 6 and effective access to public services; now, therefore,

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

9 **Article – State Government**

10 ~~9-3301.~~

11 ~~(a) In this subtitle the following words have the meanings indicated.~~

12 ~~(e) “Office” means the Governor’s Office of Immigrant Affairs.~~

13 ~~9-3303.1.~~

14 ~~(A) ON OR BEFORE JULY 1, 2027, THE OFFICE SHALL:~~

15 ~~(1) DEVELOP A STRATEGY TO ENFORCE THE REQUIREMENTS UNDER~~
 16 ~~§ 10-1103 OF THIS ARTICLE FOR EACH IDENTIFIED STATE DEPARTMENT, AGENCY,~~
 17 ~~OR PROGRAM;~~

18 ~~(2) OVERSEE, MONITOR, INVESTIGATE, AND ENFORCE COMPLIANCE~~
 19 ~~WITH § 10-1103 OF THIS ARTICLE FOR EACH IDENTIFIED STATE DEPARTMENT,~~
 20 ~~AGENCY, OR PROGRAM;~~

21 ~~(3) DESIGNATE A LANGUAGE ACCESS COMPLIANCE PROGRAM~~
 22 ~~DIRECTOR;~~

23 ~~(4) PROVIDE GUIDANCE AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, IN~~
 24 ~~CONSULTATION WITH THE MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF DISABILITIES AND THE~~
 25 ~~GOVERNOR’S OFFICE OF THE DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING, ON THE~~
 26 ~~DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF LANGUAGE ACCESS PLANS AND POLICIES~~
 27 ~~TO STATE DEPARTMENTS, AGENCIES, AND PROGRAMS IDENTIFIED UNDER §~~
 28 ~~10-1103 OF THIS ARTICLE; AND~~

29 ~~(5) IN PERFORMING THE DUTIES REQUIRED UNDER THIS~~
 30 ~~SUBSECTION, SOLICIT FEEDBACK FROM STAKEHOLDERS THROUGH PUBLIC~~
 31 ~~COMMENT.~~

~~(B) THE OFFICE MAY DEVELOP AND UPDATE LANGUAGE ACCESS POLICY AND LANGUAGE ACCESS STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE TEMPLATES FOR A STATE DEPARTMENT, AGENCY, OR PROGRAM IDENTIFIED UNDER § 10-1103 OF THIS ARTICLE.~~

~~(C) BEGINNING IN FISCAL YEAR 2027, THE GOVERNOR SHALL INCLUDE IN THE ANNUAL BUDGET BILL AN APPROPRIATION OF \$400,000 FOR THE OFFICE TO IMPLEMENT THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SECTION.~~

10-1102.

(a) In this subtitle the following words have the meanings indicated.

(b) (1) “Equal access” means to be informed of, participate in, and benefit from public services offered by a State department, agency, or program, at a level equal to English proficient individuals.

(2) “EQUAL ACCESS” INCLUDES THE ABILITY TO RECEIVE LANGUAGE ASSISTANCE THAT:

(I) ENSURES ACCURATE, TIMELY, AND EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION AT NO COST TO THE INDIVIDUAL; AND

(II) IS NOT SIGNIFICANTLY RESTRICTED, DELAYED, OR OF LOWER QUALITY COMPARED TO PROGRAMS OR ACTIVITIES AVAILABLE TO ENGLISH-PROFICIENT INDIVIDUALS.

[(c) “Limited English proficiency” means the inability to adequately understand or express oneself in the spoken or written English language.]

(C) “LANGUAGE ACCESS PLAN” MEANS A WRITTEN DOCUMENT THAT STANDARDIZES THE LANGUAGE ACCESS COMPLIANCE POLICY, STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE, REPORTING, AND COMPLAINT PROCESS FOR EACH STATE DEPARTMENT, AGENCY, OR PROGRAM.

(d) [“Oral language] “LANGUAGE ASSISTANCE services” includes various methods to provide verbal information and interpretation such as:

(1) staff interpreters, bilingual staff, telephone interpreter programs, and private interpreter programs; AND

(2) SIGN LANGUAGES, BRAILLE, TDD/TT/TTY, LARGE PRINT, PLAIN LANGUAGE, AND OTHER COMMUNICATION ACCOMMODATIONS USED BY INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES.

1 **(E) “LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY” MEANS A LIMITED ABILITY TO READ,**
2 **WRITE, SPEAK, OR UNDERSTAND ENGLISH IN A MANNER THAT ALLOWS EFFECTIVE**
3 **COMMUNICATION WITH A STATE DEPARTMENT, AGENCY, OR PROGRAM TO HAVE**
4 **ACCESS TO AND PARTICIPATE IN SERVICES, ACTIVITIES, PROGRAMS, OR OTHER**
5 **BENEFITS ADMINISTERED BY THE STATE.**

6 **[(e)] (F) “Program” means all of the operations of a State department, State**
7 **agency, or any other instrumentality of the State.**

8 **(G) “PUBLIC CONTACT POSITIONS” ARE POSITIONS IN A STATE**
9 **DEPARTMENT, AGENCY, OR PROGRAM FOR WHICH THE PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITIES**
10 **INCLUDE GREETING, MEETING, OR PROVIDING INFORMATION OR SERVICES TO THE**
11 **PUBLIC.**

12 **[(f)] (H) (1) “Vital documents” means all applications or informational**
13 **materials, notices, and complaint forms offered by State departments, agencies, and**
14 **programs THAT ARE CRITICAL FOR ACCESSING A STATE DEPARTMENT, AGENCY, OR**
15 **PROGRAM.**

16 **(2) “VITAL DOCUMENTS” INCLUDE:**

17 **(I) EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND RISK COMMUNICATIONS;**

18 **(II) ONLINE AND PAPER APPLICATIONS;**

19 **(III) CONSENT FORMS;**

20 **(IV) COMPLAINT FORMS;**

21 **(V) ALL CATEGORIES OF LETTERS OR NOTICES PERTAINING TO**
22 **THE ELIGIBILITY FOR STATE BENEFITS;**

23 **(VI) WRITTEN TESTS EVALUATING COMPETENCY FOR A LICENSE,**
24 **JOB, OR SKILL FOR WHICH ENGLISH PROFICIENCY IS NOT REQUIRED;**

25 **(VII) DOCUMENTS THAT ARE REQUIRED BY LAW; AND**

26 **(VIII) NOTICES AT NO COST REGARDING THE AVAILABILITY OF**
27 **LANGUAGE ASSISTANCE SERVICES FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH LIMITED ENGLISH**
28 **PROFICIENCY.**

29 **[(2)] (3) “Vital documents” does not include applications and**
30 **examinations related to the licensure, certification, or registration under the Health**

1 Occupations Article, Financial Institutions Article, Business Occupations and Professions
2 Article, and Business Regulation Article within the jurisdiction of the Maryland
3 Department of Health or the Maryland Department of Labor.

4 10-1103.

5 (a) Each State department, agency, or program listed or identified under
6 subsection (c) of this section shall:

7 (1) SUBJECT TO SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION, DEVELOP A
8 LANGUAGE ACCESS PLAN;

9 (2) take reasonable steps to provide equal access to public services for
10 individuals with limited English proficiency[.] WHO NEED LANGUAGE ASSISTANCE,
11 INCLUDING ANY ORAL, WRITTEN, AND SIGN LANGUAGE SERVICES NEEDED TO ASSIST
12 INDIVIDUALS WITH LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY AND INDIVIDUALS WITH
13 DISABILITIES TO:

14 (I) COMMUNICATE EFFECTIVELY WITH STATE PERSONNEL AND
15 CONTRACTORS;

16 (II) GAIN EQUAL ACCESS TO PUBLIC SERVICES; AND

17 (III) PROVIDE AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE IN THE
18 SERVICES, ACTIVITIES, PROGRAMS, OR OTHER BENEFITS PROVIDED BY A STATE
19 DEPARTMENT, AGENCY, OR PROGRAM;

20 (3) PROVIDE ORAL LANGUAGE ASSISTANCE, INCLUDING
21 INTERPRETATION IN NON-ENGLISH LANGUAGES PROVIDED IN PERSON OR
22 REMOTELY BY A QUALIFIED INTERPRETER FOR AN INDIVIDUAL WITH LIMITED
23 ENGLISH PROFICIENCY;

24 (4) ARRANGE FOR QUALIFIED BILINGUAL OR MULTILINGUAL STAFF
25 TO COMMUNICATE DIRECTLY WITH INDIVIDUALS WITH LIMITED ENGLISH
26 PROFICIENCY;

27 (5) PROVIDE NOTICES OF THE LANGUAGE ASSISTANCE SERVICES
28 THAT ARE AVAILABLE; AND

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

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

1 [(2) (i)] ~~(6) (3)~~ **ARRANGE FOR** the translation of vital documents
2 ordinarily provided to the public into any language spoken by any limited English proficient
3 population that constitutes ~~[3%]~~ **0.5%** of the [overall] population ~~[within the geographic~~
4 ~~area served by a local office of a] ~~OF THE~~ State ~~[program] as measured by the United States~~
5 ~~Census]~~; and~~

6 (ii) the provision of vital documents translated under item (i) of this
7 item on a statewide basis to any local office as necessary; and

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

10 **(B) (1) IN DEVELOPING THE LANGUAGE ACCESS PLAN REQUIRED UNDER**
11 **SUBSECTION (A)(1) OF THIS SECTION, EACH STATE DEPARTMENT, AGENCY, OR**
12 **PROGRAM SHALL:**

13 **(I) DETERMINE THE NUMBER OR PERCENTAGE OF**
14 **INDIVIDUALS WITH LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY WHO ARE ELIGIBLE TO BE**
15 **SERVED BY, OR LIKELY TO HAVE AN ENCOUNTER WITH, THE STATE DEPARTMENT,**
16 **AGENCY, OR PROGRAM;**

17 **(II) ESTIMATE THE FREQUENCY WITH WHICH INDIVIDUALS**
18 **WITH LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY WILL COME INTO CONTACT WITH THE STATE**
19 **DEPARTMENT, AGENCY, OR PROGRAM; AND**

20 **(III) DETERMINE THE LANGUAGE ASSISTANCE RESOURCES**
21 **AVAILABLE TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT, AGENCY, OR PROGRAM.**

22 **(2) EACH STATE DEPARTMENT, AGENCY, OR PROGRAM SHALL**
23 **UPDATE THE LANGUAGE ACCESS PLAN EVERY 2 YEARS AND INCLUDE:**

24 **(I) THE TYPES AND DESCRIPTIONS OF LANGUAGE ASSISTANCE**
25 **SERVICES THAT THE STATE DEPARTMENT, AGENCY, OR PROGRAM WILL PROVIDE;**

26 **(II) A LIST OF THE LANGUAGES, INCLUDING DIALECTS, OR**
27 **FORMS OF COMMUNICATION FOR WHICH A STATE DEPARTMENT, AGENCY, OR**
28 **PROGRAM WILL PROVIDE LANGUAGE ASSISTANCE SERVICES AND THE RATIONALE**
29 **FOR SELECTING THE LANGUAGES, DIALECTS, OR FORMS OF COMMUNICATION;**

30 **(III) AN EVALUATION AND ASSESSMENT OF THE ADEQUACY OF**
31 **THE LANGUAGE ASSISTANCE SERVICES TO BE PROVIDED;**

1 (IV) A DESCRIPTION AND FREQUENCY OF TRAINING FOR PUBLIC
2 CONTACT STAFF ON THE LANGUAGE ACCESS PLAN;

3 (V) THE PROCESS FOR FILING A COMPLAINT RELATED TO A
4 LANGUAGE ASSISTANCE SERVICE; AND

5 (VI) A DESCRIPTION OF THE FUNDING AND BUDGETARY
6 SOURCES TO IMPLEMENT THE LANGUAGE ACCESS PLAN.

7 (c) (1) ~~The provisions of this section shall be fully implemented according to~~
8 ~~the following schedule:~~

9 ~~[(1)] (I) ON OR BEFORE JULY 1, 2027, FULL IMPLEMENTATION BY~~
10 ~~THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF IMMIGRANT AFFAIRS; AND~~

11 ~~(H) on~~ ON or before July 1, [2003] **2028**, full implementation ~~THE~~
12 PROVISIONS OF THIS SECTION SHALL BE FULLY IMPLEMENTED by:

13 [(i) the Department of Human Services;

14 (ii) the Maryland Department of Labor;

15 (iii) the Maryland Department of Health;

16 (iv) the Department of Juvenile Services; and

17 (v) the Workers' Compensation Commission;

18 (2) on or before July 1, 2004, full implementation by:

19 (i) the Department of Aging;

20 (ii) the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services;

21 (iii) the Department of Transportation, not including the Maryland
22 Transit Administration;

23 (iv) the Commission on Civil Rights;

24 (v) the Department of State Police; and

25 (vi) five independent agencies, boards, or commissions, to be
26 determined by the Secretary of Human Services, in consultation with the Office of the
27 Attorney General;

28 (3) on or before July 1, 2005, full implementation by:

- 1 (i) the Comptroller of Maryland;
- 2 (ii) the Department of Housing and Community Development;
- 3 (iii) the Maryland Transit Administration;
- 4 (iv) the Department of Natural Resources;
- 5 (v) the Maryland State Department of Education;
- 6 (vi) the Office of the Attorney General; and
- 7 (vii) five independent agencies, boards, or commissions to be
- 8 determined by the Secretary of Human Services, in consultation with the Office of the
- 9 Attorney General;

10 (4) on or before July 1, 2006, full implementation by:

- 11 (i) the Department of Agriculture;
- 12 (ii) the Department of Commerce;
- 13 (iii) the Department of Veterans and Military Families;
- 14 (iv) the Department of the Environment; and
- 15 (v) five independent agencies, boards, or commissions to be
- 16 determined by the Secretary of Human Services, in consultation with the Office of the
- 17 Attorney General;]

18 ~~1.~~ (I) THE WORKERS' COMPENSATION COMMISSION;

19 ~~2.~~ (II) THE COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS;

20 ~~3.~~ (III) THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE POLICE;

21 ~~4.~~ (IV) THE COMPTROLLER OF MARYLAND;

22 ~~5.~~ (V) THE MARYLAND TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION;

23 ~~6.~~ (VI) THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION;

24 ~~7.~~ (VII) THE OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL;

1 ~~§ (VIII)~~ FIVE INDEPENDENT AGENCIES, BOARDS, OR
 2 COMMISSIONS, TO BE DETERMINED BY THE SECRETARY OF HUMAN SERVICES, IN
 3 COLLABORATION WITH THE OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL; AND

4 [(5)] ~~§ (IX)~~ [on or before July 1, 2025, full implementation by]
 5 each principal department listed under § 8-201 of this article[; and].

6 [(6)] (2) [if] IF a principal department is created on or after October 1,
 7 [2024] 2028, the principal department shall comply with the requirements of this section
 8 beginning 1 year after the date on which the principal department is created.

9 (D) ON OR BEFORE SEPTEMBER 30 EACH YEAR, EACH STATE DEPARTMENT,
 10 AGENCY, OR PROGRAM IDENTIFIED UNDER SUBSECTION (C) OF THIS SECTION SHALL
 11 SUBMIT A REPORT TO THE ~~GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF IMMIGRANT AFFAIRS~~
 12 MARYLAND LANGUAGE ADVISORY GROUP THAT CONTAINS THE FOLLOWING
 13 INFORMATION FOR THE PREVIOUS FISCAL YEAR:

14 (1) A SUMMARY OF ALL ACTIVITIES PERFORMED, INCLUDING A
 15 SELF-ASSESSMENT AND EXPLANATION OF ANY UNMET OBJECTIVES; AND

16 (2) ~~THE TOTAL NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS SERVED FROM THE TOTAL~~
 17 ~~POPULATION SERVED BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT, AGENCY, OR PROGRAM,~~
 18 ~~DISAGGREGATED BY LANGUAGE;~~

19 (3) ~~THE NUMBER AND TYPES OF LANGUAGE ASSISTANCE SERVICES~~
 20 ~~PROVIDED, DISAGGREGATED BY LANGUAGE;~~

21 (4) ~~THE NAMES OF ALL ORGANIZATIONS RECEIVING GRANTS OR~~
 22 ~~CONTRACTS TO PROVIDE LANGUAGE ASSISTANCE SERVICES FROM THE STATE~~
 23 ~~DEPARTMENT, AGENCY, OR PROGRAM;~~

24 (5) ~~AN ITEMIZED BUDGET FOR LANGUAGE ASSISTANCE SERVICES~~
 25 ~~EXPENDITURES;~~

26 (6) ~~A LIST OF QUALIFIED BILINGUAL OR MULTILINGUAL PERSONNEL~~
 27 ~~EMPLOYED IN PUBLIC CONTACT POSITIONS BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT, AGENCY,~~
 28 ~~OR PROGRAM; AND~~

29 (7) ~~THE NUMBER OF LANGUAGE ACCESS COMPLAINTS RECEIVED, THE~~
 30 ~~CURRENT STATUS OF THE COMPLAINTS, AND THE STEPS TAKEN TO RESOLVE THE~~
 31 ~~COMPLAINTS~~ ANY OTHER PERFORMANCE MEASURES REQUIRED BY THE MARYLAND
 32 LANGUAGE ADVISORY GROUP.

1 (A) IN THIS SECTION, “ADVISORY GROUP” MEANS THE MARYLAND
2 LANGUAGE ADVISORY GROUP.

3 (B) ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 1, 2026, THE OFFICE AND THE DEPARTMENT
4 OF DISABILITIES SHALL CONVENE THE MARYLAND LANGUAGE ADVISORY GROUP TO
5 MAKE FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS ON OVERSIGHT, MONITORING,
6 INVESTIGATION, AND ENFORCEMENT OF THIS SUBTITLE.

7 (C) THE ADVISORY GROUP SHALL INCLUDE:

8 (1) THE DIRECTOR, OR THE DIRECTOR’S DESIGNEE;

9 (2) THE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF THE DEAF AND HARD OF
10 HEARING, OR THE DIRECTOR’S DESIGNEE;

11 (3) THE SECRETARY OF DISABILITIES, OR THE SECRETARY’S
12 DESIGNEE;

13 (4) THE SECRETARY OF LABOR, OR THE SECRETARY’S DESIGNEE;

14 (5) THE SECRETARY OF HUMAN SERVICES, OR THE SECRETARY’S
15 DESIGNEE;

16 (6) THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH, OR THE SECRETARY’S DESIGNEE;

17 (7) THE SECRETARY OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY, OR THE
18 SECRETARY’S DESIGNEE; AND

19 (8) THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS, OR THE STATE
20 SUPERINTENDENT’S DESIGNEE.

21 (D) THE DIRECTOR OR THE DIRECTOR’S DESIGNEE AND THE SECRETARY OF
22 DISABILITIES OR THE SECRETARY’S DESIGNEE ARE THE CO-CHAIRS OF THE
23 ADVISORY GROUP.

24 (E) THE STAFFING RESPONSIBILITIES SHALL BE SHARED BY THE OFFICE
25 AND THE DEPARTMENT OF DISABILITIES.

26 (F) THE ADVISORY GROUP SHALL MEET AT LEAST TWICE EACH YEAR.

27 (G) (1) THE ADVISORY GROUP MAY ESTABLISH WORKGROUPS AS
28 NECESSARY TO COMPLETE THE DUTIES OF THE ADVISORY GROUP.

1 (2) A WORKGROUP ESTABLISHED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS
2 SUBSECTION MAY INCLUDE MEMBERS THAT ARE NOT LISTED UNDER SUBSECTION (C)
3 OF THIS SECTION.

4 (H) ON OR BEFORE JULY 1 EACH YEAR, THE ADVISORY GROUP SHALL:

5 (1) IN CONSULTATION WITH THE APPROPRIATE STATE AND LOCAL
6 AGENCIES AND COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS:

7 (I) REVIEW ANY LANGUAGE ACCESS PLANS, AS DEFINED IN §
8 10-1102 OF THIS SUBTITLE, DEVELOPED BY STATE DEPARTMENTS, AGENCIES, AND
9 PROGRAMS TO DEVELOP A TEMPLATE LANGUAGE ACCESS PLAN;

10 (II) REVIEW LAWS AND BEST PRACTICES OF LOCAL
11 JURISDICTIONS AND OTHER STATES RELATING TO LANGUAGE ACCESS;

12 (III) DEVELOP A TEMPLATE LANGUAGE ACCESS PLAN, AS
13 DEFINED IN § 10-1102 OF THIS SUBTITLE, FOR STATE DEPARTMENTS, AGENCIES, OR
14 PROGRAMS;

15 (IV) DEVELOP A TEMPLATE LANGUAGE ACCESS POLICY AND
16 TEMPLATE LANGUAGE ACCESS STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE FOR STATE
17 DEPARTMENTS, AGENCIES, OR PROGRAMS;

18 (V) RECOMMEND AT LEAST ONE STATE DEPARTMENT, AGENCY,
19 OR PROGRAM TO PERFORM OVERSIGHT, MONITORING, INVESTIGATION, AND
20 ENFORCEMENT OF THIS SUBTITLE;

21 (VI) ESTABLISH A FRAMEWORK TO ASSESS IF STATE
22 DEPARTMENTS, AGENCIES, AND PROGRAMS ARE IN COMPLIANCE WITH § 10-1103 OF
23 THIS SUBTITLE; AND

24 (VII) SOLICIT INPUT FROM THE STAKEHOLDERS IDENTIFIED
25 UNDER ITEM (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION;

26 (2) SOLICIT INPUT FROM:

27 (I) LEGAL AND SOCIAL SERVICES ORGANIZATIONS THAT
28 PROVIDE SERVICES TO INDIVIDUALS WITH LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY, AS
29 DEFINED IN § 10-1102 OF THIS SUBTITLE;

30 (II) LEGAL AND SOCIAL SERVICES ORGANIZATIONS THAT
31 PROVIDE SERVICES TO INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES;

- 1 (III) DISABILITY RIGHTS ADVOCACY ORGANIZATIONS;
- 2 (IV) IMMIGRANTS’ RIGHTS ADVOCACY ORGANIZATIONS;
- 3 (V) INDIVIDUALS WITH LIVED EXPERIENCE WITH LIMITED
- 4 ENGLISH PROFICIENCY, AS DEFINED IN § 10-1102 OF THIS SUBTITLE, SIGN
- 5 LANGUAGE, VISUAL DISABILITIES, OR OTHER COMMUNICATION DISABILITIES; AND
- 6 (VI) OTHER RELEVANT STAKEHOLDERS.

7 (I) (1) ON OR BEFORE JUNE 1 EACH YEAR, THE ADVISORY GROUP SHALL
 8 SUBMIT AN ANNUAL REPORT TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, IN ACCORDANCE WITH §
 9 2-1257 OF THIS ARTICLE.

10 (2) THE REPORT SHALL INCLUDE:

11 (I) A DESCRIPTION OF THE WORK OF THE ADVISORY GROUP;

12 AND

13 (II) ANY RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE ADVISORY GROUP.

14 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
 15 October 1, 2025.

Approved:

Governor.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.

President of the Senate.