

Written Testimony for **SB 685/ HB 983**: Election Law - Local Boards of Elections - Language-Related Assistance - Please **VOTE NO** on this bill.

Dear Ways & Means Committee:

This bill reads “Requiring the State Board of Elections to determine whether there is a significant and substantial need for language-related assistance in certain languages by a local board of elections during an election based on certain criteria; requiring local boards to provide certain language-related assistance and materials in voting and elections to certain voters in certain languages; and requiring local boards to make reasonable efforts to recruit election judges who are fluent in certain languages...”

This is a bad bill. Registered voters living in the USA should be able to speak, read and understand English. This stipulation should be exactly the same for people driving in this country. How do we expect people to be good, responsible drivers if they cannot read our street signs? How do we expect people to make **informed** decisions when voting if they cannot read, speak and understand our most widely used language? If people cannot read, speak and understand English, how can they know **what** they are voting for and **whom** they are voting for? Interpreters are not available at every polling location. So how can voters make the best decisions about whom to vote for and what questions on the ballot to vote yes or no on?

We, as a state and as a nation, should want voters to make the best decisions and most **informed** decisions possible when voting.

In that spirit, please **VOTE NO** on this bill.

Thank you.

Respectfully,

Trudy Tibbals

A Very concerned Mother of 3 and Maryland Resident