

SENATE BILL NO. 325—SENATORS BEERS,
HECK, CEGAVSKE, HARDY AND LEE

MARCH 19, 2007

JOINT SPONSORS: ASSEMBLYMEN BEERS, HARDY,
COBB, GOEDHART, GRADY AND MARVEL

Referred to Committee on Government Affairs

SUMMARY—Makes various changes concerning the English
language. (BDR 19-760)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No.
Effect on the State: No.

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EXPLANATION – Matter in **bolded italics** is new; matter between brackets ~~omitted material~~ is material to be omitted.

AN ACT relating to governmental administration; designating
English as the official language of the State of Nevada;
requiring certain proceedings and records of this State to
be in English; and providing other matters properly
relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel's Digest:

- 1 **Section 1** of this bill designates English as the official language of the State of
2 Nevada and, with limited exceptions, requires that all official proceedings of the
3 State be conducted in English and requires all official records of the State to be
4 prepared, stored and made available in English.

1 WHEREAS, English is the common language of the people of the
2 United States of America and the State of Nevada and should be
3 preserved, protected and strengthened; and

4 WHEREAS, English is the most widely used language in the
5 areas of finance, trade, technology, diplomacy and entertainment,
6 and is the living library of the last 100 years of scientific and
7 technological advances; and

8 WHEREAS, There are more persons who speak English as a
9 second language in the world than there are native speakers of
10 English, and the numerous schools that teach English around the



1 world demonstrate that English is soon to become the prevalent
2 language used throughout the world; and

3 WHEREAS, It is universally accepted that a common language
4 promotes unity and fosters better communication; and

5 WHEREAS, Knowledge of the different languages existing in
6 today's world enhances competitiveness and growth in world trade
7 and promotes economic expansion; and

8 WHEREAS, A skilled labor force is crucial to the competitiveness
9 of the State of Nevada in today's national and global economy, and
10 a knowledge of both English and foreign languages enhances
11 communication and diplomatic efforts by fostering greater
12 communication and understanding between nations and can promote
13 a greater understanding between different ethnic and racial groups
14 within the United States; now, therefore,

15
16 THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN
17 SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:
18

19 **Section 1.** Chapter 235 of NRS is hereby amended by adding
20 thereto a new section to read as follows:

21 ***1. The Legislature hereby:***

22 ***(a) Pledges that it:***

23 ***(1) Will not enact any law which diminishes or ignores the***
24 ***role of English as the common language of this State; and***

25 ***(2) Will take all steps necessary to ensure that English is***
26 ***preserved and enhanced as the common language of this State.***

27 ***(b) Encourages other state officials to take appropriate steps to***
28 ***ensure that English is preserved and enhanced as the common***
29 ***language of this State.***

30 ***(c) Recognizes:***

31 ***(1) The importance of English as the unifying language of***
32 ***the United States and the importance of speaking English fluently***
33 ***to succeed in American society;***

34 ***(2) That a command of English is a critical component of***
35 ***the success and productivity of the children in this State and***
36 ***should be encouraged at all ages; and***

37 ***(3) That a skilled labor force is crucial to this State's***
38 ***competitiveness in a global economy and the ability to speak one***
39 ***or more languages in addition to English is a significant skill.***

40 ***(d) Supports educational programs designed to teach English***
41 ***as well as other languages.***

42 ***(e) Encourages the residents of this State:***

43 ***(1) To master English as well as other languages; and***



* S B 3 2 5 R 1 *

1 (2) To take advantage of all educational opportunities to
2 realize their potential in the mastery of English as well as other
3 languages.

4 2. English is hereby designated as the official language of the
5 State of Nevada.

6 3. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 4:

7 (a) All official proceedings of this State must be conducted in
8 the English language.

9 (b) All official records of this State must be prepared, stored
10 and made available in the English language.

11 4. The provisions of subsection 3 do not apply to:

12 (a) State employees when conducting official state business
13 orally.

14 (b) Classes that teach students a language other than English.

15 (c) Classes that teach students whose proficiency in the
16 English language is limited.

17 (d) Situations in which the exclusive use of the English
18 language would interfere with the functions and requirements of
19 the judicial system of this State.

20 (e) Situations in which the exclusive use of the English
21 language would interfere with public health or safety or the
22 provision of emergency services.

23 (f) The promotion of international trade or tourism by an
24 officer, employee or agent of this State.

25 5. Notwithstanding the provisions of any other specific
26 statute:

27 (a) No court of this State has jurisdiction to hear a claim
28 against this State that is based solely on the failure of this State to
29 provide copies of statutes, regulations, reports, forms or other
30 documents in a language other than English.

31 (b) Neither this State nor an officer, employee or agent of this
32 State is liable, civilly or criminally, for an act or omission
33 committed to carry out the provisions of subsection 3.

34 Sec. 2. (Deleted by amendment.)

35 Sec. 3. (Deleted by amendment.)

