

House Bill 1119

By: Representatives Franklin of the 17th, Hines of the 35th, Douglas of the 73rd, Amerson of the 9th, White of the 3rd, Post 2, and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

To amend Article 4 of Chapter 3 of Title 50 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the official state language, so as to provide that state agencies, counties, municipal corporations, and political subdivisions of this state shall be prohibited from using or printing official documents and forms or from transacting business in languages other than English; to repeal certain exemptions; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

SECTION 1.

Article 4 of Chapter 3 of Title 50 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the official state language, is amended by striking in its entirety Code Section 50-3-100, relating to the designation of English as the official state language, constitutional rights not denies, authorization for documents and forms in other languages, and exemptions, and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

"50-3-100.

(a) The English language is designated as the official language of the State of Georgia. The official language shall be the language used for each public record, as defined in Code Section 50-18-70, and each public meeting, as defined in Code Section 50-14-1, and for official Acts of the State of Georgia, including those governmental documents, records, meetings, actions, or policies which are enforceable with the full weight and authority of the State of Georgia.

(b) This Code section shall not be construed in any way to deny a person's rights under the Constitution of Georgia or the Constitution of the United States or any laws, statutes, or regulations of the United States ~~or of the State of Georgia~~ as a result of that person's inability to communicate in the official language.

(c) State agencies, counties, municipal corporations, and political subdivisions of this state are ~~authorized to use or to print~~ prohibited from using or printing official documents and forms or from transacting any business or otherwise communicating in languages other

than the official language, at the discretion of their governing authorities. Documents filed or recorded with a state agency or with the clerk of a county, municipal corporation, or political subdivision must be in the official language or, if the original document is in a language other than the official language, an English translation of the document must be simultaneously filed.

(d) The provisions of subsection (a) of this Code section shall not apply when in conflict with federal law.†

~~(1) When in conflict with federal law;~~

~~(2) When the public safety, health, or justice requires the use of other languages;~~

~~(3) To instruction designed to teach the speaking, reading, or writing of foreign languages;~~

~~(4) To instruction designed to aid students with limited English proficiency in their transition and integration into the education system of the state; and~~

~~(5) To the promotion of international commerce, tourism, sporting events, or cultural events."~~

SECTION 2.

All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.