

House Bill 1670

By: Representative Lim of the 99th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Article 2 of Chapter 5 of Title 15 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
2 relating to the Judicial Council, so as to require the Judicial Council to develop a language
3 access plan for all courts; to provide for training; to provide for language assistance services;
4 to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

6 **SECTION 1.**

7 Article 2 of Chapter 5 of Title 15 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the
8 Judicial Council, is amended by adding a new Code section to read as follows:

9 "15-5-27.

10 The Judicial Council of Georgia shall develop a language access plan for all courts under
11 this title to:

12 (1) Perform a periodic needs assessment;

13 (2) Monitor and evaluate language assistance services on an ongoing basis;

14 (3) Train judges and staff on working with persons who have limited English
15 proficiency;

(4) Provide interpreter services or the assistance of authorized bilingual staff at key points of contact between the public and the court system;

(5) Provide in-person interpreter services when not unreasonably costly and remote services when in-person services are not feasible; and

(6) Translate documents and signage identified through the needs assessment as being important for ensuring language access to all persons using court services."

SECTION 2.

All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.