

JAN 11 1999

STATE GOVERNMENT

HOUSE FILE 2

BY CORBETT, RAYHONS, GREINER,
VAN FOSSEN, WELTER, JOHNSON,
BAUDLER, TEIG, KLEMME, DRAKE,
SUNDERBRUCH, BLODGETT, BRAUNS,
TYRRELL, LORD, LARSON, HANSEN,
NELSON, BARRY, BRADLEY, HAHN,
BODDICKER, SUKUP, RANTS, and
CORMACK

Passed House, Date _____ Passed Senate, Date _____

Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____ Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____

Approved _____

A BILL FOR

1 An Act establishing English as the common language of the state.

2 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18

HT 2

1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. 1.18 COMMON LANGUAGE OF STATE.

2 The common language of the state shall be the English
3 language and all official proceedings, records, and
4 publications shall be in the English language. This English
5 language requirement shall not apply to communications in
6 braille, to communications utilizing American sign language,
7 or to any other form or method of communication intended for
8 persons who are deaf, hard-of-hearing, blind, or visually
9 impaired. To foster the inclusion of individuals whose
10 primary language is a language other than the English
11 language, the state shall make every effort to provide
12 instruction in the English language to such adults and
13 children throughout the state. The requirements of this
14 section establishing English as the common language of the
15 state shall not apply to any of the following:

16 1. To public employees in the oral or verbal, as opposed
17 to written, performance of government business.

18 2. To instruction in foreign language classes.

19 3. To instruction designed to aid students with limited
20 English proficiency.

21 4. When deemed to interfere with the needs of the judicial
22 system.

23 5. When public health, safety, and emergency services
24 require the use of other languages.

25 6. To the promotion of international commerce and tourism.

26 7. To any oral or written communications, examinations, or
27 publications produced or utilized by a driver's license
28 station.

29 8. To personal communications relating to a particular
30 student and sent home from a school with that student. All
31 such communications may be in a language other than English if
32 a non-English language is the dominant language in a student's
33 home.

34 9. To any publication of any division of the department of
35 human rights. Written material produced by the divisions of

1 the department of human rights relating to any matter within
2 the scope of their authority may be published in any language
3 the divisions find necessary to utilize in order to
4 effectively communicate with the intended recipients of the
5 material.

6 EXPLANATION

7
8 This bill establishes English as the common language of the
9 state, to be utilized in official proceedings, records, and
10 publications. The bill additionally provides that the state
11 shall make every effort to provide instruction in the English
12 language to facilitate the inclusion of individuals with a
13 primary language other than the English language.

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

