

FILED MAR 8 1999

SENATE FILE 332
BY BOETTGER and KING

Passed Senate, Date _____ Passed House, Date _____
Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____ Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____
Approved _____

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to public policy involving the use of the English
2 language and assistance to legal immigrants and foreign
3 nationals and providing a future repeal.

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

- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8
- 9
- 10
- 11
- 12
- 13
- 14
- 15
- 16
- 17
- 18
- 19
- 20
- 21
- 22
- 23
- 24
- 25

SF 332

SMALL BUS., ECON DEV. & TOUR.

1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. 1.18 OFFICIAL LANGUAGE OF STATE.
2 The official 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
6 intended for persons who are deaf or blind. The requirements
7 of this section establishing English as the official language
8 of the state shall not apply to any of the following:
9 1. To public employees in the oral or verbal, as opposed
10 to written, performance of government business if necessary
11 for effective communications.
12 2. To instruction in foreign language classes.
13 3. To instruction designed to aid students with limited
14 English proficiency.
15 4. When deemed to interfere with the needs of the judicial
16 system.
17 5. When public health, safety, and emergency services
18 require the use of other languages.
19 6. To the promotion of international commerce and tourism.
20 7. To any oral or written communications, examinations, or
21 publications produced or utilized by a driver's license
22 station, provided public safety is not jeopardized.
23 8. To personal communications relating to students. Such
24 communications may be in a language other than English if a
25 non-English language is necessary for effective
26 communications.
27 9. To any publication of any division of the department of
28 human rights. Written material produced by the divisions of
29 the department of human rights relating to any matter within
30 the scope of their authority may be published in any language
31 necessary to effectively communicate with the intended
32 recipients of the material.
33 10. To communications by any state agency required to be
34 made for purposes of compliance with federal law, regulations,
35 or requirements.

1 11. To any communications relating to the bureau of
2 refugee services in the department of human services.

3 Sec. 2. Section 84A.5, subsection 6, Code 1999, is amended
4 by adding the following new paragraph:

5 NEW PARAGRAPH. f. The center for new Iowans established
6 under section 84A.10.

7 Sec. 3. NEW SECTION. 84A.10 CENTER FOR NEW IOWANS.

8 1. For the purposes of this section, unless the context
9 otherwise requires, "foreign national" means a person who is
10 not a citizen of the United States, including but not limited
11 to a refugee, asylum seeker, lawful permanent resident, and
12 holder of a temporary visa.

13 2. The department shall establish a center for new Iowans
14 to provide immigration counseling, technical assistance, and
15 referral services to persons who are legal immigrants or
16 foreign nationals who want to work and reside or temporarily
17 stay in this state. The center may collaborate with the
18 bureau of refugee services in the department of human services
19 in providing assistance to refugees, but shall not duplicate
20 services to refugees. The department may contract for
21 administration and operation of the center with a nonprofit
22 agency that is designated by the United States information
23 agency to work with the agency's international visitors
24 program.

25 3. The center's services and activities to persons who are
26 legal immigrants or foreign nationals shall include but are
27 not limited to all of the following:

28 a. Providing information and assistance concerning current
29 immigration trends and laws. Any legal advice or assistance
30 shall be provided using a process approved by the Iowa bar
31 association.

32 b. Acting as a referral center to connect such persons
33 with appropriate support agencies and programs. Services and
34 programs may include but are not limited to any of the
35 following:

1 (1) Legal aid.

2 (2) Client outreach information and referral.

3 (3) Employment assistance in cooperation with workforce
4 development centers. This assistance may include training
5 center staff to assist legal immigrants and foreign nationals
6 in understanding social mores, etiquette, business practices,
7 health care services, and other fundamental information for
8 living in Iowa.

9 (4) Liaison services with the United States immigration
10 and naturalization service and congressional offices.

11 (5) Language translation of brochures and other
12 information distributed by public and private agencies.

13 c. Serving as an educational resource to employers and the
14 public regarding concerns and issues connected with employment
15 of foreign nationals.

16 d. Providing language translation services and working
17 cooperatively with Iowa legal aid societies in dealing with
18 civil cases.

19 4. Staffing for the center shall include a managing
20 licensed attorney who is knowledgeable regarding immigration
21 law, an education and referral counselor, support staff, and
22 other necessary positions.

23 5. The center may charge fees for services.

24 6. This section is repealed on July 1, 2004.

25

EXPLANATION

26 This bill relates to public provisions involving the use of
27 the English language and assistance to legal immigrants and
28 foreign nationals.

29 New Code section 1.18 establishes English as the official
30 language of the state, to be utilized in official proceedings,
31 records, and publications. Several exceptions to the
32 provisions are specified.

33 The bill establishes in Code section 84A.10 a center for
34 new Iowans in the department of workforce development. The
35 purpose of the center is to provide immigration counseling,

1 technical assistance, and referral services to persons who are
2 legal immigrants or foreign nationals who want to work and
3 reside or temporarily stay in this state. The center is to
4 collaborate with the bureau of refugee services and is not to
5 duplicate services to refugees. The department may contract
6 with a qualified nonprofit organization to administer and
7 operate the center. Basic services and assistance are
8 specified along with basic staffing provisions. The center is
9 authorized to charge fees for services. The bill provides for
10 repeal of the new Code section on July 1, 2004.

11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35