

House Bill 2459

Sponsored by Representative NELSON; Representatives BOQUIST, CAMERON, ESQUIVEL, KRIEGER, Senators ATKINSON, G GEORGE

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Makes English official language of state.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to English as official language of Oregon.

3 Whereas English is the common language of the United States of America and the State of
4 Oregon; and

5 Whereas the United States of America and the State of Oregon are strengthened by diversity,
6 which is made possible by the presence of a common language; and

7 Whereas at least 138 languages are spoken in the State of Oregon, according to the United
8 States Census 2000; and

9 Whereas the State of Oregon should dedicate itself to assisting people in attaining fluency in
10 English, rather than attempting to learn the language of individual immigrants; now, therefore,

11 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

12 **SECTION 1.** (1) **English is the official language of the State of Oregon.**

13 (2) **An agency of state government, as defined in ORS 174.111, is not required to provide**
14 **services or information in a language other than English, except as required by state or**
15 **federal law.**

16 (3) **This section does not prevent an agency of state government from providing services**
17 **or information in a language other than English to individuals with limited English profi-**
18 **ciency.**

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NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.