



SB 270 and HB 1049 Establish Meaningfully Accessible Language Services at All State Agencies to All Virginians

SB 270 and HB 1049 establish basic principles for all Virginians--whether Limited English Proficient or people whose disabilities affect their communications--to be able to have meaningful access to state agency services. These bills are funded through [Budget Amendments](#) and require the Secretary of Administration to:

- Establish criteria for the procurement of language interpretation and translation services by state agencies and
- Determine qualifications of and compensation for state employees who are multilingual and whose job requires interpretation, translation, or other bilingual skills at least once a month.

SB 270 and HB 1049 create the Interagency Language Access Working Group that shall:

1. Establish and maintain a model language access policy for all state agencies to use;
 2. Develop and update a glossary of common terms used by state agencies and translated into at least 10 of the most frequently spoken non-English languages in the Commonwealth;
 3. Work with each state agency's Language Access Coordinator to track progress being made by each state agency in ensuring language access for the public;
 4. Recommend policy changes, review the Code of Virginia, and identify funding and resources in order to meet individuals' language access needs; and
 5. Submit an annual report (with delineated components) to the Governor and the General Assembly by November 1st of each year, covering the prior fiscal year.
- The bills require each agency to designate a Language Access Coordinator who will be responsible for developing and implementing the agency's language access policy and preparing the agency's annual language access report and
 - Ensure, as a matter of policy, that all Virginians have meaningful access to programs, services, and activities of state agencies regardless of English proficiency or disabilities that affect their communications.

See other side for a List of Organizations Supporting SB 270/HB 1049

Organizations Supporting SB 270/HB 1049 (as of 1/24/2022)

ACLU People Power, ACLU-VA, African Communities Together, African Community Network, American Jewish Committee, American Lung Association of Virginia, AYUDA, Bread for the World. CASA de Virginia, Centreville Immigration Forum, Church World Services - Virginia, Coalition of Asian Pacific Americans of Virginia, Congregation Action Network, Cornerstone, Domestic Workers Alliance, Dream Project, Dreamers Mothers in Action (DMIA), Edu Futuro, Engage, Fuego Coalition, Hamkae Center, Hispanic Organization of Leadership in Action, Jewish Community Relations Council, JAMAAT -- Jews and Muslims and Allies Acting Together, Just Neighbors, Korean American Association of Northern Virginia, Latina Institute for Reproductive Justice--Virginia, League of United Latin American Citizens--National, Legal Aid Justice Center, Mental Health America of Virginia, Multicultural Community Center, National Multiple Sclerosis Society, Neighbor's Keeper, New Virginia Majority, Progress Virginia, ReEstablish Richmond, Rx Partnership, Sacred Heart Center, SEIU 512, SEIU 32BJ, Shirlington Employment and Education Center, Sin Barreras, Tenants and Workers United, The Commonwealth Institute for Fiscal Analysis, Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice, United Food and Commercial Workers Local 400, Virginia Association of Community Psychiatric Nurses, Virginia Association of Free and Charitable Clinics, Virginia Breast Cancer Foundation, Virginia Civic Engagement Table, Virginia Coalition of Latino Organizations, Virginia Hemophilia Foundation and the Hemophilia Association of the Capital Area, Virginia Immigration Intercollegiate Alliance, Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy, Virginia League of Planned Parenthood, Virginia Organizing, Virginia Poverty Law Center, Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Action Alliance, Voices for Virginia's Children