

**Second Regular Session  
Seventy-fourth General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO**

**PREAMENDED**

*This Unofficial Version Includes Committee  
Amendments Not Yet Adopted on Second Reading*

LLS NO. 24-0350.01 Jacob Baus x2173

**HOUSE BILL 24-1031**

---

**HOUSE SPONSORSHIP**

**Bradley and Joseph,** Duran, Evans, Froelich, Pugliese, Young

**SENATE SPONSORSHIP**

**Kirkmeyer and Michaelson Jenet,** Fields, Zenzinger

---

**House Committees**

Health & Human Services  
Appropriations

**Senate Committees**

---

**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

101      **CONCERNING MEASURES TO INCREASE ACCESSIBILITY PROVIDED TO**  
102            **PERSONS WHO ARE INVOLVED IN MATTERS REGARDING A**  
103            **CHILD'S WELFARE, AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, MAKING**  
104            **AN APPROPRIATION.**

---

**Bill Summary**

*(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at <http://leg.colorado.gov/>.)*

**Colorado's Child Welfare System Interim Study Committee.**

The bill requires that certain services provided to children or their families comply with the provisions of Title VI of the federal "Civil

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.  
Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing law.  
Dashes through the words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law.

Rights Act of 1964" if they are provided by a county department, city and county, or a private-entity contractor. Furthermore, the bill requires that the county department, city and county, or private-entity contractor make reasonable efforts to ensure meaningful language access to services in the person's primary language for a person with limited English proficiency in a timely manner and without unreasonable delay.

The bill requires a court to provide language access, including translation and interpretation services, to a child, parent, guardian, custodian, or other party in a dependency and neglect case if the person has limited English proficiency.

The bill requires that during a dispositional hearing concerning the best interests of a child, reasonable efforts must be made to ensure meaningful access to services in the person's primary language for a person with limited English proficiency in a timely manner and without unreasonable delay.

The bill requires the department of human services (department) to develop and implement a language access plan to address the rights and needs of persons with limited English proficiency. The department is also required to develop a resource bank of common documents that are in plain language, translated into non-English languages, and are made accessible to counties, cities and counties, or private-entity contractors.

---

1 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 19-1-103, **add** (92.5)  
3 and (95.5) as follows:

4 **19-1-103. Definitions.** As used in this title 19 or in the specified  
5 portion of this title 19, unless the context otherwise requires:

6 (92.5) "LANGUAGE ACCESS" MEANS THE PROVISION OF  
7 MEANINGFUL ACCESS TO SERVICES IN THE PERSON'S PRIMARY LANGUAGE  
8 FOR A PERSON WITH LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY. "LANGUAGE ACCESS"  
9 INCLUDES THE PROVISION OF EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION SUPPORTS,  
10 SERVICES, AND ACCOMMODATIONS AS DESCRIBED IN THE FEDERAL  
11 "AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT OF 1990", 42 U.S.C. SEC. 12101 ET  
12 SEQ., AS AMENDED, AND ITS RELATED AMENDMENTS AND IMPLEMENTING  
13 REGULATIONS.

1 (95.5) "LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY" MEANS THE LIMITED  
2 ABILITY TO SPEAK, READ, WRITE, OR UNDERSTAND THE ENGLISH  
3 LANGUAGE FOR A PERSON WHOSE PRIMARY LANGUAGE IS NOT ENGLISH.

4 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 19-3-208, **add** (2)(h)  
5 as follows:

6 **19-3-208. Services - county required to provide - out-of-home**  
7 **placement options - rules - definitions.** (2) (h) SERVICES PROVIDED  
8 PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION MUST MEET THE PROVISIONS OF TITLE VI OF  
9 THE FEDERAL "CIVIL RIGHTS ACT OF 1964", AND ITS RELATED  
10 AMENDMENTS AND IMPLEMENTING REGULATIONS, REGARDLESS OF  
11 WHETHER THE SERVICES ARE PROVIDED BY A COUNTY DEPARTMENT, CITY  
12 AND COUNTY, OR PRIVATE-ENTITY CONTRACTOR. A COUNTY DEPARTMENT,  
13 CITY AND COUNTY, OR PRIVATE-ENTITY CONTRACTOR SHALL **TAKE**  
14 **REASONABLE ACTIONS** TO ENSURE MEANINGFUL LANGUAGE ACCESS TO A  
15 PERSON WITH LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY IN ACCORDANCE WITH RULES  
16 PROMULGATED PURSUANT TO SECTION 26-5-102.5. THE LANGUAGE  
17 ACCESS MUST BE PROVIDED IN A TIMELY MANNER AND WITHOUT  
18 UNREASONABLE DELAY.

19 **SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 19-3-218 as  
20 follows:

21 **19-3-218. Language access.** (1) PURSUANT TO THIS ARTICLE 3,  
22 THE COURT SHALL PROVIDE LANGUAGE ACCESS TO A CHILD OR A PARENT,  
23 GUARDIAN, OTHER CUSTODIAN, OR OTHER PARTY IF **THE PERSON**  
24 REQUESTS LANGUAGE ACCESS OR THE COURT FINDS THAT A PERSON HAS  
25 LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY.

26 (2) A PERSON WHO RECEIVES LANGUAGE ACCESS PURSUANT TO  
27 THIS SECTION MUST RECEIVE TRANSLATION AND INTERPRETATION

1 SERVICES IN CIRCUMSTANCES WHEN A SIMILARLY SITUATED PERSON  
2 WOULD RECEIVE THE COMMUNICATION IN ENGLISH. TRANSLATION MUST  
3 BE PROVIDED IN A TIMELY MANNER AND WITHOUT UNREASONABLE DELAY  
4 IF REQUESTED BY THE PARTY, AND INTERPRETATION MUST BE PROVIDED  
5 AT EVERY PROCEEDING.

6 **SECTION 4.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 19-3-507, **add** (6) as  
7 follows:

8 **19-3-507. Dispositional hearing - rules.** (6) IN ADOPTING A  
9 TREATMENT PLAN, THE COURT SHALL CONSIDER SERVICES AND PROGRAMS  
10 THAT PROVIDE THE PARENT AND CHILD WITH LANGUAGE ACCESS AND  
11 IDENTIFY THE MANNER IN WHICH THE COUNTY DEPARTMENT ENSURES THE  
12 PROVISION OF LANGUAGE ACCESS CONSISTENT WITH THE REQUIREMENTS  
13 OF THE FEDERAL "AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT OF 1990", 42  
14 U.S.C. SEC. 12101 ET SEQ., AS AMENDED, AND ITS RELATED AMENDMENTS  
15 AND IMPLEMENTING REGULATIONS, AND TITLE IV OF THE FEDERAL "CIVIL  
16 RIGHTS ACT OF 1964", 42 U.S.C. SEC. 2000d ET SEQ., AS AMENDED, AND  
17 ITS RELATED AMENDMENTS AND IMPLEMENTING REGULATIONS. ■ ■ ■

18 **SECTION 5. Appropriation.** For the 2024-25 state fiscal year,  
19 \$74,953 is appropriated to the judicial department for use by courts  
20 administration. This appropriation is from the judicial stabilization cash  
21 fund created in section 13-32-101 (6), C.R.S. To implement this act, the  
22 division may use this appropriation as follows:

23 (a) \$67,753 for general courts administration, which amount is  
24 based on an assumption that the division will require an additional 0.8  
25 FTE; and

26 (b) \$7,200 for capital outlay.

27 **SECTION 6. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act

1 takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the  
2 ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly; except  
3 that, if a referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V  
4 of the state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this  
5 act within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take  
6 effect unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in  
7 November 2024 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the  
8 official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.