

First Regular Session  
Seventy-fifth General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. 25-0556.01 Rebecca Bayetti x4348

HOUSE BILL 25-1153

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HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Velasco and Joseph,

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

(None),

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House Committees

State, Civic, Military, & Veterans Affairs

Senate Committees

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A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 CONCERNING A STATEWIDE LANGUAGE ACCESS ASSESSMENT  
102 COVERING PRINCIPAL DEPARTMENTS.

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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>.)*

The bill requires the department of personnel (department), in collaboration with the office of new Americans, to conduct or contract to conduct a statewide language access assessment (assessment). The assessment covers all principal departments except the department of state, the department of the treasury, and the department of law (principal departments). The assessment must identify:

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.

- The needs of principal departments to meet the language access standards outlined in the language access universal policy, including requests for guidance, training, and technical assistance;
- Relevant language access materials from principal departments, including language access plans, position descriptions related to language access, procedures related to language access, and technical assistance or training materials;
- Information on current language services contracts, expenditures, and funding sources related to language access;
- The public-facing responsibilities of principal departments, including designating which principal departments and their subcontractors do and do not have frequent contact with linguistically diverse individuals; and
- Other covered entities that may be subject to the standards outlined in the language access universal policy.

The department may enter into an agreement with a third-party entity to conduct all or part of the assessment. The third-party entity must have demonstrated expertise in working with state governments on language access initiatives, such as developing language access policies or plans.

At the conclusion of the assessment and not later than December 31, 2026, the department, the office of new Americans, or the third-party entity is required to create a report covering the findings of the assessment and recommendations concerning:

- Improving efficiency, increasing quality of service, reducing cost, avoiding duplicative work, building on existing best practices, and minimizing administrative burden with respect to the provision of linguistically accessible government services and programs to linguistically diverse individuals;
- Addressing gaps and improving meaningful service through changes to language access services, practices, and procedures;
- Evaluating potential technological options for increasing language access, such as artificial intelligence; and
- Determining what infrastructure is needed to ensure full and sustainable implementation of the standards outlined in the language access universal policy.

The department must include a summary of the report and assessment in its January 2027 presentation to legislative oversight committees required by the "State Measurement for Accountable, Responsive, and Transparent (SMART) Government Act".

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

2           **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 24-30-105 as  
3 follows:

4           **24-30-105. Statewide language access assessment - report -**  
5 **legislative declaration - definitions. (1) Legislative declaration.** THE  
6 GENERAL ASSEMBLY FINDS AND DECLARES THAT:

7           (a) ALMOST NINE HUNDRED THOUSAND COLORADANS SPEAK A  
8 LANGUAGE OTHER THAN ENGLISH, WITH THE TOP FIVE LANGUAGES BEING  
9 SPANISH, CHINESE, VIETNAMESE, GERMAN, AND RUSSIAN, AND MORE  
10 THAN THREE HUNDRED THOUSAND COLORADANS FACE LINGUISTIC  
11 BARRIERS TO ACCESSING STATE GOVERNMENT SERVICES AND PROGRAMS;

12           (b) PROVIDING LANGUAGE ACCESS FOR STATE GOVERNMENT  
13 SERVICES AND PROGRAMS IS KEY TO IMPROVING THEIR EFFECTIVENESS  
14 AND SUPPORTING SUCCESSFUL INTEGRATION AND INCLUSION OF  
15 IMMIGRANTS AND THEIR FAMILIES INTO COLORADO'S CIVIC, ECONOMIC,  
16 AND SOCIAL LIFE;

17           (c) IT IS THE INTENT OF THE OFFICE OF NEW AMERICANS IN THE  
18 COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT TO WORK  
19 ADMINISTRATIVELY, IN CONCERT WITH THE STATEWIDE EQUITY OFFICE OF  
20 THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND ADMINISTRATION, TO ESTABLISH AN  
21 INTERIM LANGUAGE ACCESS WORKING GROUP MADE UP OF THE PRINCIPAL  
22 DEPARTMENTS OF THE STATE;

23           (d) ONCE ESTABLISHED, THE INTERIM LANGUAGE ACCESS WORKING  
24 GROUP WILL WORK TO DRAFT A STATEWIDE LANGUAGE ACCESS POLICY FOR  
25 THE CONSIDERATION OF THE GOVERNOR;

26           (e) UPON APPROVAL OF THE DRAFT POLICY BY THE GOVERNOR, A

1 LANGUAGE ACCESS UNIVERSAL POLICY WILL BE ADOPTED AND PUBLISHED  
2 BY THE DIVISION OF HUMAN RESOURCES WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF  
3 PERSONNEL AND ADMINISTRATION;

4 (f) THE LANGUAGE ACCESS ASSESSMENT CREATED IN THIS SECTION  
5 WILL ASSESS THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE LANGUAGE ACCESS UNIVERSAL  
6 POLICY IN MEETING THE NEEDS OF MULTILINGUAL COLORADANS AND WILL  
7 ASSESS THE READINESS OF PRINCIPAL DEPARTMENTS TO MEET THE  
8 STATEWIDE LANGUAGE ACCESS STANDARDS; AND

9 (g) UPON COMPLETION OF THE ASSESSMENT AND NOT LATER THAN  
10 DECEMBER 31, 2026, THE INTERIM LANGUAGE ACCESS WORKING GROUP  
11 WILL DISSOLVE AND TRANSITION TO A COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE  
12 MAINTAINED BY THE STATEWIDE EQUITY OFFICE. THE ONGOING WORK OF  
13 THE LANGUAGE ACCESS COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE WILL BE INFORMED BY  
14 THE WORK OF THE INTERIM LANGUAGE ACCESS WORKING GROUP AND WILL  
15 FOCUS ON IMPLEMENTING THE LANGUAGE ACCESS UNIVERSAL POLICY  
16 WITH ONGOING OBSERVATION OF BEST PRACTICES IN THE PRINCIPAL  
17 DEPARTMENTS.

18 (2) **Definitions.** AS USED IN THIS SECTION, UNLESS THE CONTEXT  
19 OTHERWISE REQUIRES:

20 (a) "DEPARTMENT" MEANS THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL  
21 CREATED IN SECTION 24-1-128.

22 (b) "EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR" MEANS THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF  
23 THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL.

24 (c) "LANGUAGE ACCESS ASSESSMENT" OR "ASSESSMENT" MEANS  
25 THE STATEWIDE ASSESSMENT ON LANGUAGE ACCESS READINESS REQUIRED  
26 BY SUBSECTION (3) OF THIS SECTION.

27 (d) "LANGUAGE ACCESS UNIVERSAL POLICY" MEANS THE

1 STATEWIDE POLICY STANDARDS FOR LANGUAGE ACCESS IDENTIFIED BY  
2 THE INTERIM LANGUAGE ACCESS WORKING GROUP INITIATED BY THE  
3 OFFICE OF NEW AMERICANS AND THE DEPARTMENT IN 2025.

4 (e) "LINGUISTICALLY DIVERSE INDIVIDUALS" MEANS INDIVIDUALS  
5 SEEKING TO ACCESS STATE GOVERNMENT SERVICES IN THE LANGUAGE OF  
6 THEIR CHOICE WHO MAY HAVE ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY THAT  
7 REQUIRES LANGUAGE SUPPORT IN CERTAIN CONTEXTS. "LINGUISTICALLY  
8 DIVERSE INDIVIDUALS" INCLUDES INDIVIDUALS WITH LIMITED ENGLISH  
9 PROFICIENCY AS PROVIDED BY TITLE VI OF THE "CIVIL RIGHTS ACT OF  
10 1964," 42 U.S.C. SEC. 2000D ET SEQ.; FEDERAL EXECUTIVE ORDER 13166,  
11 "IMPROVING ACCESS TO SERVICES FOR PERSONS WITH LIMITED ENGLISH  
12 PROFICIENCY," AS PUBLISHED IN 65 FED. REG. 50121 (AUGUST 11, 2000);  
13 FEDERAL EXECUTIVE ORDER 13985, "ADVANCING RACIAL EQUITY AND  
14 SUPPORT FOR UNDERSERVED COMMUNITIES THROUGH THE FEDERAL  
15 GOVERNMENT," AS PUBLISHED IN 86 FED. REG. 7009 (JANUARY 20, 2021);  
16 FEDERAL EXECUTIVE ORDER 14091, "FURTHER ADVANCING RACIAL  
17 EQUITY AND SUPPORT FOR UNDERSERVED COMMUNITIES THROUGH THE  
18 FEDERAL GOVERNMENT," AS PUBLISHED IN 88 FED. REG. 10825  
19 (FEBRUARY 16, 2023); AND OTHER FEDERAL ANTI-DISCRIMINATION  
20 STATUTES.

21 (f) "OFFICE OF NEW AMERICANS" MEANS THE COLORADO OFFICE  
22 OF NEW AMERICANS CREATED IN SECTION 8-3.7-103.

23 (g) "OTHER COVERED ENTITY" MEANS A PUBLIC OR PRIVATE  
24 ENTITY THAT RECEIVES STATE FUNDING OR CONTRACTS TO ADMINISTER  
25 PROGRAMS OR SERVICES FOR THE PUBLIC, INCLUDING RECEIVING STATE  
26 FUNDING THROUGH GRANTS, PURCHASE-OF-SERVICE CONTRACTS, OR ANY  
27 OTHER ARRANGEMENT BY WHICH THE STATE PROVIDES OR OTHERWISE

1 MAKES AVAILABLE ASSISTANCE IN THE FORM OF MONEY TO A PERSON FOR  
2 THE PURPOSE OF RENDERING SERVICES TO THE PUBLIC.

3 (h) "PRINCIPAL DEPARTMENT" MEANS A PRINCIPAL DEPARTMENT  
4 LISTED IN SECTION 24-1-110; EXCEPT THAT "PRINCIPAL DEPARTMENT"  
5 DOES NOT INCLUDE THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, THE DEPARTMENT OF THE  
6 TREASURY, OR THE DEPARTMENT OF LAW.

7 (i) "THIRD-PARTY ENTITY" MEANS AN ENTITY THAT HAS ENTERED  
8 INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE DEPARTMENT TO CONDUCT ALL OR PART  
9 OF THE LANGUAGE ACCESS ASSESSMENT.

10 (3) **Statewide language access assessment.** (a) THE EXECUTIVE  
11 DIRECTOR, IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE OFFICE OF NEW AMERICANS, SHALL  
12 ASSESS OR CONTRACT FOR AN ASSESSMENT OF THE READINESS OF  
13 PRINCIPAL DEPARTMENTS TO MEET THE LANGUAGE ACCESS STANDARDS  
14 OUTLINED IN THE LANGUAGE ACCESS UNIVERSAL POLICY. IN ADDITION TO  
15 ANY AREA OF ASSESSMENT DEEMED APPROPRIATE BY THE EXECUTIVE  
16 DIRECTOR, THE OFFICE OF NEW AMERICANS, OR THE THIRD-PARTY ENTITY,  
17 THE ASSESSMENT MUST IDENTIFY:

18 (I) THE NEEDS OF PRINCIPAL DEPARTMENTS TO MEET THE  
19 STANDARDS OUTLINED IN THE LANGUAGE ACCESS UNIVERSAL POLICY,  
20 INCLUDING REQUESTS FOR GUIDANCE, TRAINING, AND TECHNICAL  
21 ASSISTANCE;

22 (II) RELEVANT LANGUAGE ACCESS MATERIALS FROM PRINCIPAL  
23 DEPARTMENTS, INCLUDING LANGUAGE ACCESS PLANS, POSITION  
24 DESCRIPTIONS RELATED TO LANGUAGE ACCESS, PROCEDURES RELATED TO  
25 LANGUAGE ACCESS, AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE OR TRAINING  
26 MATERIALS;

27 (III) INFORMATION ON CURRENT LANGUAGE SERVICES CONTRACTS,

1 EXPENDITURES, AND FUNDING SOURCES RELATED TO LANGUAGE ACCESS;

2 (IV) THE PUBLIC-FACING RESPONSIBILITIES OF PRINCIPAL  
3 DEPARTMENTS, INCLUDING DESIGNATING WHICH PRINCIPAL DEPARTMENTS  
4 AND THEIR SUBCONTRACTORS DO AND DO NOT HAVE FREQUENT CONTACT  
5 WITH LINGUISTICALLY DIVERSE INDIVIDUALS; AND

6 (V) OTHER COVERED ENTITIES THAT MAY BE SUBJECT TO THE  
7 STANDARDS OUTLINED IN THE LANGUAGE ACCESS UNIVERSAL POLICY.

8 (b) A PRINCIPAL DEPARTMENT SHALL PROVIDE ANY  
9 NONCONFIDENTIAL DATA AND NON-PERSONALLY IDENTIFIABLE  
10 INFORMATION THAT IS NECESSARY TO COMPLETE THE ASSESSMENT, AS  
11 AVAILABLE, UPON REQUEST OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OR THE  
12 THIRD-PARTY ENTITY.

13 (c) (I) THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MAY ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT  
14 WITH ONE OR MORE THIRD-PARTY ENTITIES TO CONDUCT ALL OR PART OF  
15 THE ASSESSMENT.

16 (II) A THIRD-PARTY ENTITY THAT ENTERS INTO AN AGREEMENT  
17 WITH THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO CONDUCT ALL OR PART OF THE  
18 ASSESSMENT MUST HAVE DEMONSTRATED EXPERTISE IN WORKING WITH  
19 STATE GOVERNMENTS ON LANGUAGE ACCESS INITIATIVES, SUCH AS  
20 DEVELOPING LANGUAGE ACCESS POLICIES OR PLANS.

21 (III) THE THIRD-PARTY ENTITY MAY BE FROM OUTSIDE COLORADO.

22 (4) **Report.** (a) AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE ASSESSMENT AND  
23 NOT LATER THAN DECEMBER 31, 2026, THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, THE  
24 OFFICE OF NEW AMERICANS, OR THE THIRD-PARTY ENTITY, AS  
25 APPROPRIATE, SHALL CREATE A REPORT SUMMARIZING THE FINDINGS AND  
26 RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE ASSESSMENT, INCLUDING RECOMMENDATIONS  
27 CONCERNING:

1 (I) IMPROVING EFFICIENCY, INCREASING QUALITY OF SERVICE,  
2 REDUCING COST, AVOIDING DUPLICATIVE WORK, BUILDING ON EXISTING  
3 BEST PRACTICES, AND MINIMIZING ADMINISTRATIVE BURDEN WITH  
4 RESPECT TO THE PROVISION OF LINGUISTICALLY ACCESSIBLE GOVERNMENT  
5 SERVICES AND PROGRAMS TO LINGUISTICALLY DIVERSE INDIVIDUALS;

6 (II) ADDRESSING GAPS AND IMPROVING MEANINGFUL SERVICE  
7 THROUGH CHANGES TO LANGUAGE ACCESS SERVICES, PRACTICES, AND  
8 PROCEDURES;

9 (III) EVALUATING POTENTIAL TECHNOLOGICAL OPTIONS FOR  
10 INCREASING LANGUAGE ACCESS, SUCH AS ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE; AND

11 (IV) DETERMINING WHAT INFRASTRUCTURE IS NEEDED TO ENSURE  
12 FULL AND SUSTAINABLE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STANDARDS OUTLINED  
13 IN THE LANGUAGE ACCESS UNIVERSAL POLICY.

14 (b) THE REPORT MUST INCLUDE AN EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF THE  
15 FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS THAT DOES NOT EXCEED TWO PAGES.  
16 THE EXECUTIVE SUMMARY MUST BE WRITTEN IN PLAIN LANGUAGE AND  
17 MUST BE AVAILABLE IN ENGLISH AND THE OTHER FIVE MOST COMMONLY  
18 SPOKEN LANGUAGES IN THE STATE BY POPULATION OF LINGUISTICALLY  
19 DIVERSE INDIVIDUALS.

20 (c) (I) THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SHALL MAKE THE REPORT ON THE  
21 ASSESSMENT PUBLICLY AVAILABLE ON THE DEPARTMENT'S WEBSITE.

22 (II) THE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF NEW AMERICANS SHALL  
23 MAKE THE REPORT ON THE ASSESSMENT PUBLICLY AVAILABLE ON THE  
24 OFFICE'S WEBSITE.

25 (III) UPON REQUEST, THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OR THE DIRECTOR  
26 OF THE OFFICE OF NEW AMERICANS SHALL PROVIDE A COPY OF THE REPORT  
27 IN ANY REQUESTED LANGUAGE.



1           (d) IN JANUARY 2027, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL INCLUDE, AS PART  
2 OF ITS PRESENTATION DURING ITS "SMART ACT" HEARING REQUIRED BY  
3 SECTION 2-7-203, A SUMMARY OF THE INFORMATION INCLUDED IN THE  
4 REPORT REQUIRED BY THIS SUBSECTION (4) CONCERNING THE LANGUAGE  
5 ACCESS ASSESSMENT.

6           **SECTION 2. Safety clause.** The general assembly finds,  
7 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate  
8 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety or for appropriations for  
9 the support and maintenance of the departments of the state and state  
10 institutions.