



1 S 131. SHORT TITLE. THIS ACT SHALL BE KNOWN AND MAY BE CITED AS THE  
2 "NEW YORK STATE ENGLISH LANGUAGE EMPOWERMENT ACT".

3 S 132. OFFICIAL STATE LANGUAGE. ENGLISH SHALL BE THE OFFICIAL LANGUAGE  
4 OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK. 1. THE STATE OF NEW YORK  
5 SHALL CONDUCT ALL OFFICIAL BUSINESS OF THIS STATE IN ENGLISH. ALL OFFI-  
6 CIAL DOCUMENTS, REGULATIONS, ORDERS, AND PUBLICATIONS SHALL BE PRINTED  
7 IN ENGLISH AND ALL OFFICIAL PROGRAMS, MEETINGS, TRANSACTIONS, AND  
8 ACTIONS CONDUCTED BY OR ON BEHALF OF THIS STATE AND ALL ITS POLITICAL  
9 SUBDIVISIONS SHALL BE IN ENGLISH.

10 2. A. OTHER LANGUAGES MAY BE USED BY GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, AND IN  
11 OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS, WHENEVER NECESSARY TO:

12 (I) PROTECT THE HEALTH, SAFETY, OR LIBERTY OF ANY CITIZEN;

13 (II) TEACH OR STUDY OTHER LANGUAGES;

14 (III) PROTECT THE RIGHTS OF CRIMINAL DEFENDANTS OR THE VICTIMS OF  
15 CRIME;

16 (IV) PROMOTE TRADE, TOURISM, OR COMMERCE;

17 (V) FACILITATE ACTIVITIES PERTAINING TO THE COMPILATION OF ANY CENSUS;

18 (VI) COMPLY WITH THE FEDERAL INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES EDUCATION  
19 ACT;

20 (VII) USE PROPER NAMES, TERMS OF ART, OR PHRASES FROM LANGUAGE OTHER  
21 THAN ENGLISH; OR

22 (VIII) COMPLY WITH THE CONSTITUTION AND LAWS OF THE UNITED STATES OF  
23 AMERICA, OR THE STATE CONSTITUTION.

24 B. EXCEPT IN EXIGENT CIRCUMSTANCES, WHEN AN OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT DOCU-  
25 MENT IS TRANSLATED INTO ANY LANGUAGE OTHER THAN ENGLISH UNDER THIS  
26 SECTION, AN ENGLISH TRANSLATION WILL ALSO BE PROVIDED IN THE SAME DOCU-  
27 MENT, APPEARING IN SUCH A MANNER AS TO AFFORD THE READER THE OPPORTUNITY  
28 TO OBSERVE THE ENGLISH TRANSLATION OF ALL PHRASES USED.

29 3. NOTHING IN THIS SECTION SHALL BE CONSTRUED TO:

30 (I) DIMINISH THE USAGE OF, PREVENT THE STUDY OR DEVELOPMENT OF, OR  
31 DISCOURAGE THE USE OF, ANY NATIVE AMERICAN LANGUAGE IN ANY CONTEXT OR  
32 FOR ANY PURPOSE;

33 (II) PROHIBIT ANY ELECTED OFFICIAL FROM SPEAKING TO ANY PERSON IN A  
34 LANGUAGE OTHER THAN ENGLISH WHILE CAMPAIGNING OR PROVIDING CONSTITUENT  
35 SERVICES, ALTHOUGH SUCH OFFICIALS ARE ENCOURAGED TO USE ENGLISH AS MUCH  
36 AS POSSIBLE TO PROMOTE FLUENCY IN ENGLISH;

37 (III) DISPARAGE ANY LANGUAGE OR DISCOURAGE ANY PERSON FROM LEARNING OR  
38 USING ANY LANGUAGE;

39 (IV) PROHIBIT INFORMAL AND NONBINDING TRANSLATIONS OR COMMUNICATIONS  
40 AMONG OR BETWEEN REPRESENTATIVES OF GOVERNMENT AND OTHER PERSONS IF THIS  
41 ACTIVITY DOES NOT AFFECT OR IMPAIR SUPERVISION, MANAGEMENT, CONDUCT OR  
42 EXECUTION OF OFFICIAL ACTIONS AND IF THE REPRESENTATIVES OF GOVERNMENT  
43 MAKE CLEAR THAT THESE TRANSLATIONS OR COMMUNICATIONS ARE UNOFFICIAL AND  
44 ARE NOT BINDING ON THE STATE OR ANY POLITICAL SUBDIVISION OF THE STATE;  
45 OR

46 (V) PROHIBIT INDIVIDUALS FROM UTILIZING TRANSLATION METHODS OF THEIR  
47 OWN PROVISION TO COMMUNICATE WITH AN OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT AGENT OR ENTI-  
48 TY.

49 4. AS USED IN THIS SECTION, "OFFICIAL" MEANS ANY GOVERNMENT ACTION OR  
50 DOCUMENT THAT BINDS THE GOVERNMENT, IS REQUIRED BY LAW, OR IS AUTHORIZED  
51 BY LAW.

52 S 2. This act shall take effect immediately.