

STATE OF NEW YORK

9928

IN ASSEMBLY

February 27, 2020

Introduced by M. of A. CRESPO -- read once and referred to the Committee on Governmental Operations

AN ACT to amend the executive law, in relation to providing language translation services to accommodate census self-reporting

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

1 Section 1. The executive law is amended by adding a new section 154 to
2 read as follows:

3 § 154. Census-related translation services to state agencies and
4 localities. 1. Census-related translation services shall be extended to
5 those who express a need beyond the services provided by the United
6 States Census Bureau. The department of state, by and through the secre-
7 tary of state or duly authorized officers or employees, shall have the
8 following state agency and locality oversight functions, in regard to
9 census-related translation services:

10 (a) The department shall identify existing translation services, and
11 shall work with state agencies and other relevant state institutions to
12 determine if these translation services may be utilized as census-relat-
13 ed translation services. In addition to existing translation services,
14 the department shall work to identify expanded translation services
15 which shall include as many languages as possible, provided however,
16 these expanded translation services, at a minimum, are made available in
17 all languages used within census self-reporting forms.

18 (b) The department shall connect state agencies, municipalities, and
19 other relevant state or local institutions with all identified trans-
20 lation services for the purposes of providing quality census-related
21 translation services to communities throughout the state of New York.

22 (c) To ensure the services listed in paragraph (a) of this subdivision
23 are effectively provided to the public, state agencies and localities
24 are required to notify the public of the availability of translation
25 services identified for self-reporting in the decennial census. Such
26 notice shall include posting information online, working with any rele-
27 vant organizations to reach limited or non-proficient English speakers,
28 and any other means identified as effectively providing notice.

EXPLANATION--Matter in italics (underscored) is new; matter in brackets
[-] is old law to be omitted.

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1 2. On or before April first of each year following a decennial census,
2 commencing with April first, two thousand twenty-one, the department
3 shall submit a report to the governor, the director of the budget, the
4 speaker of the assembly and the temporary president of the senate on the
5 prior year's census-related translation services for limited English
6 proficiency speakers. The report shall identify the translation services
7 or programs utilized by state agencies, localities, and other relevant
8 state or local institutions for census-related translation services in
9 that year. In addition, the report shall include recommendations for the
10 improvement of these services for the following decennial census.

11 § 2. This act shall take effect immediately.