STATE OF NEW YORK

5972

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

February 25, 2025

Introduced by M. of A. REYES, OTIS -- 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:

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

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

(a) The department shall identify existing translation services, and shall work with state agencies and other relevant state institutions to determine if such translation services may be utilized as census-related translation services. In addition to existing translation services, the department shall work to identify expanded translation services which shall include as many languages as possible, provided however that, such expanded translation services, at a minimum, shall be made available in all languages used within census self-reporting forms.

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

(c) To ensure the services listed in paragraph (a) of this subdivision are effectively provided to the public, state agencies and localities shall be required to notify the public of the availability of translation services identified for self-reporting in the decennial census.

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

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Such notice shall include posting information online, working with any relevant organizations to reach limited or non-proficient English speakers, and any other means identified as effectively providing notice.

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

§ 2. This act shall take effect April 1, 2027. Effective immediately, the addition, amendment and/or repeal of any rule or regulation necessary for the implementation of this act on its effective date are authorized to be made and completed by the secretary of state on or before such effective date.