

# HOUSE BILL No. 4372

March 6, 2013, Introduced by Reps. Pettalia, McMillin, McBroom, Genetski, Franz, Somerville, Shirkey and Johnson and referred to the Committee on Government Operations.

A bill to designate English as the official state language; to require the use of English in certain documents and at certain public meetings; and to provide the powers and duties of certain state and local agencies and officials.

**THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:**

1           Sec. 1. English is designated as the official language of this  
2 state.

3           Sec. 2. English shall be the language used for all of the  
4 following:

5           (a) Each public record, as defined in section 2 of the freedom  
6 of information act, 1976 PA 442, MCL 15.232.

7           (b) Each public meeting, as defined in section 2 of the open  
8 meetings act, 1976 PA 267, MCL 15.262.

9           (c) Official acts of this state, including those governmental  
10 documents, records, meetings, actions, or policies that are legally

1 enforceable in this state.

2       Sec. 3. This act shall not be construed in any way to deny a  
3 person's rights under the state constitution of 1963 or the  
4 constitution of the United States or any state or federal law as a  
5 result of that person's inability to communicate in English.

6       Sec. 4. (1) In addition to printing official documents and  
7 forms in English, a state agency or a local unit of government may  
8 use or print official documents and forms in languages other than  
9 English.

10       (2) A document filed or recorded with a state agency or with a  
11 local unit of government shall be in English or, if the original  
12 document is in a language other than English, an English  
13 translation of the document shall be simultaneously filed.

14       Sec. 5. (1) This act does not apply under any of the following  
15 circumstances:

16       (a) If there is a conflict with federal law.

17       (b) If the public safety, health, or justice requires the use  
18 of languages other than English.

19       (2) This act does not apply to any of the following:

20       (a) Instruction designed to teach the speaking, reading, or  
21 writing of foreign languages.

22       (b) Instruction designed to aid students with limited English  
23 proficiency in their transition and integration into the education  
24 system of the state.

25       (c) The promotion of international commerce, tourism, sporting  
26 events, or cultural events.