



2007 ASSEMBLY BILL 806

February 13, 2008 - Introduced by Representatives HONADEL, BIES, DAVIS, GUNDERSON, KERKMAN, KLEEFISCH, F. LASEE, LEMAHIEU, LOTHIAN, MURSAU, NASS, NYGREN, A. OTT, OWENS, PETERSEN, PRIDEMORE, TAUCHEN, TOWNSEND, VAN ROY, M. WILLIAMS, VOS, ZIPPERER and HAHN, cosponsored by Senators GROTHMAN, A. LASEE, LEIBHAM, ROESSLER and DARLING, by request of Representative Roger Roth. Referred to Committee on Jobs and The Economy.

1 **AN ACT** *to renumber and amend* 65.90 (2); and *to create* 1.101, 1.103, 16.41
2 (3m) and 65.90 (2m) of the statutes; **relating to:** an official state language, use
3 of English for governmental written expression, and requiring state agencies
4 and local governmental units to provide separate line items for the costs of
5 documents and other materials that are not in English.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

This bill provides that the official language of this state is English. Currently, this state has no official language.

The bill provides that, unless otherwise specifically required by law, all written expression by all units of state and local government in this state shall be in the English language, except that such expression may be in another language when appropriate to the circumstances of an individual case, the implementation of a program in a specific instance, or the discharge of a responsibility in a particular situation. No similar requirement exists currently.

The bill requires each state agency to maintain a separate line in its state operations appropriation account for all costs related to the preparation, translation, printing, and recording of documents, records, brochures, pamphlets, flyers, or other material in languages other than English.

Generally under current law, most local units of government that have the authority to levy a general property tax (a city, village, town, county, school district, and technical college district) are required to formulate a budget and hold public

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hearings on the budget. This general requirement does not apply to first class cities (presently only Milwaukee) and counties with a population of at least 500,000 (presently only Milwaukee County).

Under the bill, the local units of government to which the budget requirement applies, and the city of Milwaukee and Milwaukee County, must include a separate appropriation in their budget for all costs related to the preparation, translation, printing, and recording of documents, records, brochures, pamphlets, flyers, or other printed material in languages other than English.

For further information see the *state and local* fiscal estimate, which will be printed as an appendix to this bill.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

1 **SECTION 1.** 1.101 of the statutes is created to read:

2 **1.101 Official state language.** The official language of this state is English.

3 **SECTION 2.** 1.103 of the statutes is created to read:

4 **1.103 Use of English for governmental written expression.** Unless
5 otherwise specifically authorized or required by law, all written expression by all
6 units of state and local government in this state shall be in the English language,
7 except that such expression may be in another language when appropriate to the
8 circumstances of an individual case, the implementation of a program in a specific
9 instance, or the discharge of a responsibility in a particular situation.

10 **SECTION 3.** 16.41 (3m) of the statutes is created to read:

11 **16.41 (3m)** Beginning on July 1, 2009, each agency shall maintain a separate
12 line in its state operations appropriation account for all costs related to the
13 preparation, translation, printing, and recording of documents, records, brochures,
14 pamphlets, flyers, or other material in languages other than English.

15 **SECTION 4.** 65.90 (2) of the statutes is renumbered 65.90 (2) (intro.) and
16 amended to read:

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1 65.90 (2) (intro.) ~~Such~~ The budget under sub. (1) shall list include all of the
2 following:

3 (a) A list of all existing indebtedness and all anticipated revenue from all
4 sources during the ensuing year and shall likewise list all proposed appropriations
5 for each department, activity and reserve account during the said ensuing year. Such
6 budget shall also show actual, including a separate appropriation for all costs related
7 to the preparation, translation, printing, and recording of documents, records,
8 brochures, pamphlets, flyers, or other material in languages other than English.

9 (b) Actual revenues and expenditures for the preceding year, actual revenues
10 and expenditures for not less than the first 6 months of the current year and
11 estimated revenues and expenditures for the balance of the current year. ~~Such~~
12 ~~budget shall also show for~~

13 (c) For informational purposes by fund all anticipated unexpended or
14 unappropriated balances, and surpluses.

15 **SECTION 5.** 65.90 (2m) of the statutes is created to read:

16 65.90 (2m) With regard to a 1st class city and any county with a population of
17 500,000 or more, any budget, as that term is used in sub. (1), formulated by such a
18 city and county shall include a separate appropriation for all costs related to the
19 preparation, translation, printing, and recording of documents, records, brochures,
20 pamphlets, flyers, or other material in languages other than English.

21 **SECTION 6. Initial applicability.**

22 (1) The treatment of sections 65.90 (2) and (2m) of the statutes first applies to
23 budgets for the fiscal year beginning after the effective date of this subsection.

24

(END)