



## 1995 ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION 29

March 21, 1995 - Introduced by Representatives LADWIG, ZUKOWSKI, PORTER, GUNDERSON, GROTHMAN, DOBYNS, NASS, OWENS, WALKER, PROSSER, HAHN, HUEBSCH, HUTCHISON, GREEN, OLSEN, HANDRICK, GARD, SKINDRUD, VRAKAS, OTT, AINSWORTH, FREESE, GOETSCH, BRANCEL, SERATTI, JOHNSRUD, MUSSER, ALBERS, UNDERHEIM, SCHNEIDERS, KAUFERT, ZIEGELBAUER, RYBA and LEHMAN, cosponsored by Senators DRZEWIECKI, A. LASEE, BUETTNER and COWLES. Referred to Committee on State Affairs.

1     **To create** section 25 of article I of the constitution; **relating to:** declaring English  
2           the language of Wisconsin, mandating the use of English for all governmental  
3           written expression, and permitting release of governmental communications in  
4           additional languages when appropriate (first consideration).

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### *Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau*

This constitutional amendment, proposed to the 1995 legislature on first consideration, creates a new section of article I of the state constitution. Article I contains the state constitution's declaration of rights. The new section created by this constitutional amendment declares that: "The language of Wisconsin is English. All written expression by the state of Wisconsin or by any unit of government in this state shall be in English. Any official communication of government in this state may be released in additional languages when appropriate to the special circumstances of an individual case, the implementation of a program in a specific instance or the discharge of a responsibility in a particular situation."

As a constitutional amendment, the proposal requires adoption by 2 successive legislatures, and ratification by the people, before it can become effective.

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5           **Resolved by the assembly, the senate concurring, That:**

6           **SECTION 1.** Section 25 of article I of the constitution is created to read:

7           [Article I] Section 25. The language of Wisconsin is English. All written  
8           expression by the state of Wisconsin or by any unit of government in this state shall  
9           be in English. Any official communication of government in this state may be

1 released in additional languages when appropriate to the special circumstances of  
2 an individual case, the implementation of a program in a specific instance or the  
3 discharge of a responsibility in a particular situation.

4 **SECTION 2. Numbering of new section.** The new section 25 of article I of the  
5 constitution, created in this joint resolution, shall be designated by the next higher  
6 open whole section number in that article if, prior to or simultaneously with the  
7 ratification by the people of the amendment proposed in this joint resolution, any  
8 other ratified amendment has created a section 25 of article I of the constitution of  
9 this state. If several ratified amendments simultaneously create a section 25 of  
10 article I, the chief of the legislative reference bureau shall determine the sequence  
11 and the numbering.

12 ***Be it further resolved, That*** this proposed amendment be referred to the  
13 legislature to be chosen at the next general election and that it be published for 3  
14 months previous to the time of holding such election.

15 (END)