



## SB 270 and HB 1049 Establish Meaningfully Accessible Language Services at All State Agencies to All Virginians

SB 270 and HB 1049 establish basic principles for all Virginians--whether Limited English Proficient or people whose disabilities affect their communications--to be able to access state agency services. These bills are funded through [Budget Amendments](#) and require the Secretary of Administration to:

- Establish criteria for the procurement of language interpretation and translation services by state agencies;
- Determine qualifications of and compensation for state employees who are multilingual and are required as part of their job to provide interpretation, translation, or other bilingual skills at least once a month;
- Establishes the *Interagency Language Access Working Group* that shall:
  1. Establish and maintain a model language access policy for all state agencies to use;
  2. Develop and update a glossary of common terms used by state agencies and translated into at least 10 of the most frequently spoken non-English languages in the Commonwealth;
  3. Work with each state agency's Language Access Coordinator to track progress being made by each state agency in ensuring language access for the public;
  4. Recommend policy changes, review the Code of Virginia, and identify funding and resources in order to meet individuals' language access needs; and
  5. Submit an annual report (with delineated components) to the Governor and the General Assembly by November 1<sup>st</sup> of each year, covering the prior fiscal year;
- Requires each agency to designate a Language Access Coordinator who will be responsible for developing and implementing the agency's language access policy and preparing the agency's annual language access report; and
- Codifies Virginia agencies' Title VI obligations.

### **Organizations Supporting this Bill:**

African Community Network, American Lung Association of Virginia, CASA, Edu Futuro, The Hamkae Center, JAMAAT -- Jews and Muslims and Allies Acting Together, Mental Health America of Virginia, National Multiple Sclerosis Society, New Virginia Majority, ReEstablish Richmond, Rx Partnership, Virginia Association of Community Psychiatric Nurses, Virginia Association of Free and Charitable Clinics, Virginia Breast Cancer Foundation, Virginia Hemophilia Foundation and the Hemophilia Association of the Capital Area, Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy, Virginia Poverty Law Center, Voices for Virginia's Children