

SENATE, No. 1663

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 13, 2020

Sponsored by:

Senator LINDA R. GREENSTEIN

District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)

SYNOPSIS

Requires Commissioners of DOH and DHS to perform language needs assessment.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 **AN ACT** concerning translation services and supplementing Titles
2 26 and 30 of the Revised Statutes.

3
4 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
5 *of New Jersey:*

6
7 1. a. The Commissioner of Health shall perform a language
8 needs assessment for all offices and programs in the department.
9 The language needs assessment shall include, but not be limited to,
10 research concerning the linguistic groups found in the office or
11 program's service area; new linguistic groups entering the office or
12 program's service area; the frequency with which certain linguistic
13 groups in the service area utilize the office or program; the
14 linguistic groups that most often request materials from the office or
15 program in languages other than English; the linguistic groups that
16 may be in need of materials from the office or program in languages
17 other than English but who do not request those materials; the
18 linguistic groups in the service area that do not access services in
19 the office or program; the significant unmet needs for providing
20 materials in languages other than English; the outreach activities
21 that need to occur to ensure that certain linguistic groups know that
22 materials in languages other than English are either available, or
23 can be made available once a significant unmet language need is
24 identified.

25 b. The Commissioner of Health shall analyze the results of the
26 language needs assessment established pursuant to subsection a. of
27 this section in preparation for a future joint request for proposals for
28 a translation service to serve both the Departments of Health and
29 Human Services, which would translate materials into languages
30 other than English for any linguistic communities served by their
31 offices or programs that present a significant unmet language need.
32 Any requests for proposals made in response to the language needs
33 assessment established pursuant to subsection a. of this section shall
34 be governed by applicable laws and procurement rules.

35
36 2. a. The Commissioner of Human Services shall perform a
37 language needs assessment for all offices and programs in the
38 department. The language needs assessment shall include, but not
39 be limited to, research concerning the linguistic groups found in the
40 office or program's service area; new linguistic groups entering the
41 office or program's service area; the frequency with which certain
42 linguistic groups in the service area utilize the office or program;
43 the linguistic groups that most often request materials from the
44 office or program in languages other than English; the linguistic
45 groups that may be in need of materials from the office or program
46 in languages other than English but who do not request those
47 materials; the linguistic groups in the service area that do not access
48 services in the office or program; the significant unmet needs for

1 providing materials in languages other than English; the outreach
2 activities that need to occur to ensure that certain linguistic groups
3 know that materials in languages other than English are either
4 available, or can be made available once a significant unmet
5 language need is identified.

6 b. The Commissioner of Human Services shall analyze the
7 results of the language needs assessment established pursuant to
8 subsection a. of this section in preparation for a future joint request
9 for proposals for a translation service to serve both the Departments
10 of Health and Human Services, which would translate materials into
11 languages other than English for any linguistic communities served
12 by their offices or programs that present a significant unmet
13 language need. Any requests for proposals made in response to the
14 language needs assessment established pursuant to subsection a. of
15 this section shall be governed by applicable laws and procurement
16 rules.

17
18 3. Within 180 days after the effective date of this act, the
19 Commissioners of Health and Human Services, in consultation with
20 each other, shall adopt rules and regulations, pursuant to the
21 "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et
22 seq.), as may be necessary to implement the provisions of this act.

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24 4. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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29 This bill requires the Commissioners of Health and Human
30 Services to perform a language needs assessment for all offices and
31 programs in their respective departments. The language needs
32 assessment is to include, but not be limited to, questions concerning
33 the linguistic groups found in the office or program's service area;
34 new linguistic groups entering the office or program's service area;
35 the frequency with which certain linguistic groups in the service
36 area utilize the office or program; the linguistic groups that most
37 often request materials from the office or program in languages
38 other than English; the linguistic groups that may be in need of
39 materials from the office or program in languages other than
40 English but who do not request those materials; the linguistic
41 groups in the service area that do not access services in the office or
42 program; the significant unmet needs for providing materials in
43 languages other than English; the outreach activities that need to
44 occur to ensure that certain linguistic groups know that materials in
45 languages other than English are either available, or can be made
46 available once a significant unmet language need is identified.

47 The bill provides that the Commissioners of Health and Human
48 Services would analyze the results of the language needs

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1 assessment in order to prepare a joint request for proposals for a
2 translation service to serve both departments, and translate
3 materials into languages other than English for any linguistic
4 communities served by their offices or programs that present a
5 significant unmet language need.