

103^D CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 739

To amend title 4, United States Code, to declare English as the official language of the Government of the United States.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 2, 1993

Mr. ROTH (for himself, Mr. SAXTON, Mr. PACKARD, Mr. BAKER of Louisiana, Mr. SISISKY, Mr. CRANE, Mr. ARMEY, Mr. OXLEY, Mr. ROHRABACHER, Mr. HYDE, and Mr. HERGER) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and Labor

A BILL

To amend title 4, United States Code, to declare English as the official language of the Government of the United States.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Declaration of Official
5 Language Act of 1993”.

6 **SEC. 2. ENGLISH AS OFFICIAL LANGUAGE.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—Title 4, United States Code, is
8 amended by adding at the end the following new chapter:

1 **“CHAPTER 6—LANGUAGE OF THE GOVERNMENT**

“Sec.

“161. Declaration of official language.

“162. Preferred language of communication.

“163. Preserving and enhancing the role of the official language.

“164. Duties of citizenship.

“165. Reform of naturalization requirement.

“166. Exceptions.

“167. Preemption.

“168. Construction.

2 **“§ 161. Declaration of official language**

3 “English is the official language of the Government
4 of the United States.

5 **“§ 162. Preferred language of communication**

6 “English is the preferred language of communication
7 among citizens of the United States.

8 **“§ 163. Preserving and enhancing the role of the offi-
9 cial language**

10 “The Government of the United States shall promote
11 and support the use of English for communications among
12 United States citizens. Communications by officers and
13 employees of the Government of the United States with
14 United States citizens shall be in English.

15 **“§ 164. Duties of citizenship**

16 “All United States citizens should be able to read,
17 write, and speak English to the extent of their physical
18 and mental abilities.

19 **“§ 165. Reform of naturalization requirements**

20 “The Immigration and Naturalization Service shall—

1 “(1) establish an English language proficiency
2 standard for all applicants for United States citizen-
3 ship, and

4 “(2) establish a written and oral examination to
5 test for the achievement of such standard by such
6 applicants.

7 **“§ 166. Exceptions**

8 “‘This chapter does not apply to the use of a language
9 other than English for—

10 “(1) religious purposes, or

11 “(2) training in foreign languages for inter-
12 national communication.

13 **“§ 167. Preemption**

14 “‘This chapter preempts any State or Federal law
15 which is inconsistent with this chapter.

16 **“§ 168. Construction**

17 “‘This Act is not intended to affect programs in
18 schools designed to encourage students to learn foreign
19 languages.’”.

20 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of chapters
21 for title 4, United States Code, is amended by adding at
22 the end the following new item:

“6. Language of the Government 161”.

23 (c) REPEALS.—

1 (1) BILINGUAL EDUCATION.—Title VII of the
2 Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 is
3 repealed.

4 (2) BILINGUAL BALLOT.—Section 203 of the
5 Voting Rights Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 1973aa-1a)
6 is repealed.

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