



Legislation Text

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File #: Int 0697-2022, Version: \*

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Int. No. 697

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A Local Law to amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to requiring translations into languages that are not included in the language access law

Be it enacted by the Council as follows:

Section 1. Subdivision a of section 23-1101 of the administrative code of the city of New York is amended by adding a new definition in alphabetical order to read as follows:

Specialty languages. The term “specialty languages” means languages commonly spoken, as determined by the office of the language services coordinator, by New York city residents who:

(1) Have processing priority levels 1, 2 or 3 according to the federal department of state; or

(2) Are from a country designated for temporary protected status by the federal department of homeland security; or

(3) Are from a region for which the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees declared a level 3 emergency; or

(4) Are geographically concentrated in an area of the city that is subject to an emergency or disaster declaration and do not speak any of the designated citywide languages.

§ 2. The opening paragraph of subdivision a of section 23-1102 of the administrative code of the city of New York is amended to read as follows:

a. Every covered agency shall provide language access services for all designated city languages and all specialty languages. Such language access services shall include, but not be limited to:

§ 3. Paragraph 4 of subdivision b of section 23-1102 of the administrative code of the city of New York is amended to read as follows:

4. incorporate an evaluation of the language access needs of the service population, or likely service population, of such agency, and consider under what circumstances some or all of the direct public services of such agency should be provided in a language or languages supplemental to the designated citywide languages and specialty languages. Such evaluation should consider any available data on the service population of such agency, including but not limited to (i) relevant survey data collected pursuant to paragraph 1 of subdivision i of section 15 of the charter, (ii) language data collected by such agency through intake processes or other processes for collecting client, applicant or participant information, and (iii) the data collected by such agency on language access services rendered or requested. Such evaluation should also consider any information collected pursuant to paragraph 3 of subdivision c of section 15 of the charter.

§ 4. This local law takes effect 120 days after it becomes law.

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