

HOUSE BILL NO. 4720

June 08, 2023, Introduced by Reps. Puri, Fitzgerald, Churches, McKinney, Wilson, MacDonell, Hope, Rheingans and Aiyash and referred to the Committee on Government Operations.

A bill to provide for the statewide coordination of equal language access to state services by individuals with limited English proficiency; to provide for the powers and duties of certain state governmental officers and entities; and to establish a process for submitting complaints and obtaining remedies for lack of equal language access and for denials of equal access based on one's national origin.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

1 Sec. 1. This act may be cited as the "statewide equal language

1 access coordination act".

2 Sec. 2. As used in this act:

3 (a) "Covered entity", "equal language access", and "limited
4 English proficiency" mean those terms as defined in the equal
5 language access to state services act.

6 (b) "Office of global Michigan" means that term as used in
7 2022 PA 166.

8 Sec. 3. The office of global Michigan shall do all of the
9 following:

10 (a) Coordinate steps taken by covered entities throughout this
11 state to provide equal language access to public services pursuant
12 to the equal language access to state services act.

13 (b) Designate at least 1 language access liaison to work with
14 covered entities to train staff, develop resources, conduct
15 outreach activities that inform the public of available language
16 services, and facilitate compliance with the equal language access
17 to state services act.

18 (c) Create a complaint form and a process for members of the
19 public to use to report and pursue a remedy for instances of
20 noncompliance with the equal language access to state services act.
21 The complaint form created under this subdivision is subject to the
22 translation requirements described in section 2(c) of the equal
23 language access to state services act.

24 (d) In collaboration with the department of civil rights and
25 consistent with section 602 of the Elliot-Larsen civil rights act,
26 1976 PA 453, MCL 37.2602, create a complaint process under which
27 individuals who believe that they have been denied full and equal
28 access to a covered entity because of their national origin may
29 submit a complaint and seek a remedy against a covered entity.

1 Sec. 4. Any individual who believes that they were denied full
2 and equal access to a covered entity because of their national
3 origin has the right to separately seek a remedy with the
4 department of civil rights pursuant to the complaint process
5 described in section 3(d).

6 Enacting section 1. This act takes effect 90 days after the
7 date it is enacted into law.

8 Enacting section 2. This act does not take effect unless
9 Senate Bill No. ____ or House Bill No. 4721 (request no. 00526'23)
10 of the 102nd Legislature is enacted into law.