
Detailed Fiscal Analysis

The bill requires English be used for each public record, for each meeting of a public body, and for each official action of any state agency or political subdivision, including each document, record, meeting, policy, or any other action taken under color of law. However, the bill acknowledges exceptions where the use of another language are necessary and state agencies, political subdivisions, or its officers or employees are allowed to act accordingly. This provision is not expected to increase costs; costs could be decreased in a few instances.

The bill requires a state university or college to refund tuition and fees to a student who cannot reasonably understand the spoken language utilized by the professor, teaching assistant, or other teaching personnel and requests such refund within 30 days of the first regularly scheduled meeting of the class or course. However, the institutions currently have tuition refund policies which provide for a full or graduated refund up to a certain day within the first 30 days after a term begins. State universities and colleges would therefore potentially have decreased revenue as a result of the tuition refund provision.

Currently, state universities and colleges are required to establish programs to assess and ensure the oral English language proficiency of all teaching assistants providing classroom instruction to students. They have also established certain mechanisms during the recruitment process, such as simulated lecture and interview, to ensure oral English proficiency for newly hired professors and other teaching personnel.

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