

1 HOUSE BILL NO. 376

2 INTRODUCED BY SIMPKINS, GROSFIELD, BRAINARD, EMERSON, WELLS, SOFT, GRIMES,
3 MARSHALL, M. HANSON, STOVALL, ZOOK, MCGEE, KITZENBERG, HERRON, L. SMITH, WISEMAN,
4 BARNETT, GAGE, MARTINEZ, MCKEE, FISHER, BOHARSKI, OHS, KNOX, FORBES, GRINDE, TREXLER,
5 T. NELSON, KEENAN, DEBRUYCKER, AHNER, SOMERVILLE, REHBEIN, HAYNE, FOSTER, ROSE, JORE,
6 ESTRADA, KEATING, S. SMITH, DENNY, MILLS, MASOLO, SLITER, BAER, GREEN, FUCHS, BERGMAN,
7 FELAND, JENKINS, ELLIS, CLARK, GRADY, TAYLOR

8
9 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT PROVIDING THAT ENGLISH IS THE OFFICIAL AND PRIMARY
10 LANGUAGE OF THE STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS."

11
12 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

13
14 NEW SECTION. Section 1. English as official and primary language of state and local governments.

15 (1) English is the official and primary language of:

16 (a) the state and local governments;

17 (b) government officers and employees acting in the course and scope of their employment; and

18 (c) government documents and records.

19 (2) A state statute, local government ordinance, or state or local government policy may not require
20 a specific foreign language to be used by government officers and employees acting in the course and
21 scope of their employment or for government documents and records or require a specific foreign language
22 to be taught in a school as a student's primary language.

23 (3) This section is not intended to violate the federal or state constitutional right to freedom of
24 speech of government officers and employees acting in the course and scope of their employment. This
25 section does not prohibit a government officer or employee acting in the course and scope of employment
26 from using a language other than English, including use in a government document or record, if the
27 employee chooses, or prohibit the teaching of ~~Native American languages or~~ other languages in a school
28 for general educational purposes or as secondary languages.

29 (4) THIS SECTION IS NOT INTENDED TO LIMIT THE USE OF ANY OTHER LANGUAGE BY A TRIBAL
30 GOVERNMENT. A SCHOOL DISTRICT AND A TRIBE, BY MUTUAL AGREEMENT, MAY PROVIDE FOR THE

1 INSTRUCTION OF STUDENTS THAT RECOGNIZES THE CULTURAL IDENTITY OF NATIVE AMERICAN
2 CHILDREN AND PROMOTES THE USE OF A COMMON LANGUAGE FOR COMMUNICATION.

3 -END-

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