

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1862

To declare English as the official language of the United States, to establish a uniform English language rule for naturalization, and to avoid mis-constructions of the English language texts of the laws of the United States, pursuant to Congress' powers to provide for the general welfare of the United States and to establish a uniform rule of naturalization under article I, section 8, of the Constitution.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 5, 2025

Ms. GREENE of Georgia (for herself, Mr. BRECHEEN, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Mr. COLLINS, Mr. GILL of Texas, and Mr. GOSAR) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and Workforce, and in addition to the Committees on the Judiciary, and Oversight and Government Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To declare English as the official language of the United States, to establish a uniform English language rule for naturalization, and to avoid misconstructions of the English language texts of the laws of the United States, pursuant to Congress' powers to provide for the general welfare of the United States and to establish a uniform rule of naturalization under article I, section 8, of the Constitution.

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 “English Language
5 Unity Act of 2025”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 The Congress finds and declares the following:

8 (1) The United States is composed of individ-
9 uals from diverse ethnic, cultural, and linguistic
10 backgrounds who assimilated into American tradi-
11 tions.

12 (2) Throughout the history of the United
13 States, one of the common threads binding individ-
14 uals of differing backgrounds has been the English
15 language.

16 (3) States should establish the English lan-
17 guage as the official language of their respective
18 States, and otherwise promote the English language
19 within their respective States, subject to the prohibi-
20 tions enumerated in the Constitution of the United
21 States and in laws of the respective States.

22 **SEC. 3. ENGLISH AS OFFICIAL LANGUAGE OF THE UNITED**
23 **STATES.**

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

1 **“CHAPTER 6—OFFICIAL LANGUAGE**

2 **“§ 161. Official language of the United States**

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

5 **“§ 162. Preserving and enhancing the role of the offi-**
6 **cial language**

7 “Representatives of the Federal Government shall
8 have an affirmative obligation to preserve and enhance the
9 role of English as the official language of the Federal Gov-
10 ernment.

11 **“§ 163. Official functions of Government to be con-**
12 **ducted in English**

13 “(a) OFFICIAL FUNCTIONS.—The official functions
14 of the Government of the United States shall be conducted
15 in English.

16 “(b) SCOPE.—For the purposes of this section, the
17 term ‘United States’ means the several States and the
18 District of Columbia, and the term ‘official’ refers to any
19 function that (i) binds the Government, (ii) is required
20 by law, or (iii) is otherwise subject to scrutiny by either
21 the press or the public.

22 “(c) PRACTICAL EFFECT.—This section shall apply
23 to all laws, public proceedings, regulations, publications,
24 orders, actions, programs, and policies, but does not apply
25 to—

1 “(1) teaching of languages;

2 “(2) requirements under the Individuals with
3 Disabilities Education Act;

4 “(3) actions, documents, or policies necessary
5 for national security, international relations, trade,
6 tourism, or commerce;

7 “(4) actions or documents that protect the pub-
8 lic health and safety;

9 “(5) actions or documents that facilitate the ac-
10 tivities of the Bureau of the Census in compiling any
11 census of population;

12 “(6) actions that protect the rights of victims of
13 crimes or criminal defendants; or

14 “(7) using terms of art or phrases from lan-
15 guages other than English.

16 **“§ 164. Uniform English language rule for naturaliza-**
17 **tion**

18 “(a) UNIFORM LANGUAGE TESTING STANDARD.—All
19 those applying for naturalization should be able to read
20 and understand generally the English language text of the
21 Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, and the
22 laws of the United States made in pursuance of the Con-
23 stitution.

24 “(b) CEREMONIES.—All naturalization ceremonies
25 shall be conducted in English.

1 **“§ 165. Rules of construction**

2 “Nothing in this chapter shall be construed—

3 “(1) to prohibit a Member of Congress or any
4 officer or agent of the Federal Government, while
5 performing official functions, from communicating
6 unofficially through any medium with another per-
7 son in a language other than English (as long as of-
8 ficial functions are performed in English);

9 “(2) to limit the preservation or use of Native
10 Alaskan or Native American languages (as defined
11 in the Native American Languages Act);

12 “(3) to disparage any language or to discourage
13 any person from learning or using a language; or

14 “(4) to be inconsistent with the Constitution of
15 the United States.”.

16 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of chapters
17 at the beginning of title 4, United States Code, is amended
18 by inserting after the item relating to chapter 5 the fol-
19 lowing new item:

“CHAPTER 6. OFFICIAL LANGUAGE”.

20 **SEC. 4. GENERAL RULES OF CONSTRUCTION FOR ENGLISH**
21 **LANGUAGE TEXTS OF THE LAWS OF THE**
22 **UNITED STATES.**

23 (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 1 of title 1, United
24 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the fol-
25 lowing new section:

1 **“§ 9. General rules of construction for laws of the**
 2 **United States**

3 “(a) English language requirements and workplace
 4 policies, whether in the public or private sector, shall be
 5 presumptively consistent with the laws of the United
 6 States.

7 “(b) Any ambiguity in the English language text of
 8 the laws of the United States shall be resolved, in accord-
 9 ance with the last two articles of the Bill of Rights, not
 10 to deny or disparage rights retained by the people, and
 11 to reserve powers to the States respectively, or to the peo-
 12 ple.”.

13 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
 14 at the beginning of chapter 1 of title 1 is amended by
 15 inserting after the item relating to section 8 the following
 16 new item:

“9. General rules of construction for laws of the United States.”.

17 **SEC. 5. IMPLEMENTING REGULATIONS.**

18 The Secretary of Homeland Security shall, within
 19 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, issue
 20 for public notice and comment a proposed rule for uniform
 21 testing of English language ability of candidates for natu-
 22 ralization, based upon the principles that all citizens
 23 should be able to read and understand generally the
 24 English language text of the Declaration of Independence,

1 the Constitution, and the laws of the United States which
2 are made in pursuance thereof.

3 **SEC. 6. NATIONAL ENGLISH LANGUAGE DAY.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 1 of title 36, United
5 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the fol-
6 lowing:

7 **“§ 149. National English Language Day**

8 “(a) PROCLAMATION.—The President shall issue a
9 proclamation recognizing the integral nature of the
10 English language in the American nation.”.

11 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
12 for such chapter is amended by adding at the end the fol-
13 lowing:

“149. National English Language Day.”.

14 **SEC. 7. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

15 The amendments made by sections 3, 4, and 6 shall
16 take effect on the date that is 180 days after the date
17 of the enactment of this Act.

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