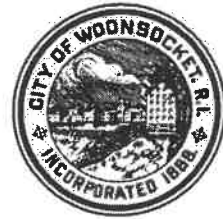


City of Woonsocket
Rhode Island



March 21, A.D. 2022

RESOLUTION

**IN OPPOSITION TO
SENATE BILL S-2557 AND HOUSE BILL H-7829
MANDATORY TRANSLATION SERVICES**

WHEREAS, the Woonsocket City Council believes in the tenets of the Open Meetings Laws of the State of Rhode Island and diligently seeks to comply with the requirements of the law; and

WHEREAS, the Rhode Island Senate Bill S-2557 (co-sponsored by Woonsocket Senator Melissa Murray) and House Bill H-7289 will create an extraordinary unfunded mandate by requiring, upon request, that translation services be provided by any public body subject to the provisions of the Opening Meetings Laws of the State of Rhode Island; and

WHEREAS, the overly simplistic bill, as proposed, fails to recognize the large number of languages and dialects employed by citizens and non-citizens of the state and nation that hundreds of large and small, local public bodies would be required to be responsive to with no controlling criteria to avoid the risk of costly burdens of compliance without consideration of whether the need is genuine or even initiated by a resident of the city, town or state.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF
THE CITY OF WOONSOCKET, RHODE ISLAND AS FOLLOWS:**

Section 1. The City Council respectfully requests that the Leaders of the House and Senate, the entire Woonsocket delegation and all of the General Assembly membership reject Senate Bill S-2557 and House Bill H-7289 as an excessive unfunded mandate being imposed on the cities and towns of the State of Rhode Island.

Section 2. That the City Clerk, upon passage, provide a copy of this Resolution to the members of the Woonsocket delegation to the General Assembly, the Honorable Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Honorable Senate President, the Honorable Chairperson of the Senate Judiciary Committee and the House Committee on State Government and Elections, the Honorable Governor and the City or Town Clerks of the Cities and Towns of Rhode Island.

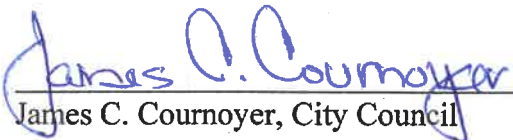
Section 3. This resolution shall be effective immediately upon passage.



John F. Ward, Council Vice President



Daniel M. Gendron, Council President



James C. Cournoyer, City Council

IN CITY COUNCIL March 21, 2022 - Read by title and passed unanimously.

2022 -- H 7829

LC005409

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2022

A N A C T

RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- OPEN MEETINGS

Introduced By: Representatives Felix, Morales, Barros, Kislak, Alzate, Giraldo, Slater,
Diaz, Cassar, and Kazarian

Date Introduced: March 04, 2022

Referred To: House State Government & Elections

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 42-46 of the General Laws entitled "Open Meetings" is hereby
2 amended by adding thereto the following section:

3 **42-46-15. Translation and interpretation services.**

4 (a) All public bodies shall develop a translation assistance plan setting forth the steps
5 necessary to ensure that all open meetings of said bodies shall have the proceedings accessible to
6 an individual in a language they understand upon request.

7 (b) The public body shall implement the translation assistance plan under this section by
8 September 1, 2023.

9 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

LC005409

EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
A N A C T
RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- OPEN MEETINGS

- 1 This act would require public bodies to offer translation services for all open meetings of
2 said bodies.
3 This act would take effect upon passage.

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LC005409
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2022 -- S 2557

LC004971

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2022

A N A C T

RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- OPEN MEETINGS

Introduced By: Senators Cano, Quezada, Acosta, DiPalma, Zurier, Kallman, Murray,
Sosnowski, Pearson, and Seveney

Date Introduced: March 04, 2022

Referred To: Senate Judiciary

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 42-46 of the General Laws entitled "Open Meetings" is hereby
2 amended by adding thereto the following section:

3 **42-46-15. Translation and interpretation services.**

4 (a) All public bodies shall develop a translation assistance plan setting forth the steps
5 necessary to ensure that all open meetings of said bodies shall have the proceedings accessible to
6 an individual in a language they understand, upon request.

7 (b) The public body shall implement the translation assistance plan under this section by
8 September 1, 2023.

9 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

LC004971

EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF

A N A C T
RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- OPEN MEETINGS

- 1 This act would require public bodies to offer translation services for all open meetings of
2 said bodies.
3 This act would take effect upon passage.

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LC004971
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