As Introduced

133rd General Assembly
Regular Session 2019-2020

S. B. No. 298

Senator Craig

A BILL

To require the department of health to make the COVID-19 web site and phone hotline accessible in multiple languages and to declare an emergency.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:

Section 1. (A) The department of health shall make the COVID-19 web site, at http://coronavirus.odh.gov, available in all of the following additional languages:

(1) Spanish;
(2) Chinese;
(3) Arabic;
(4) Somali;
(5) Nepali.

(B) The department shall provide operators that speak, or translation services for, all of the following additional languages for the COVID-19 phone hotline, at 1-833-427-5634:

(1) Spanish;
(2) Chinese;
(3) Arabic;
(4) Somali;
(5) Nepali.

(C) In providing services under divisions (A) and (B) of this section, the department may enlist the assistance of language translation and interpretation services that are available through any county department of job and family services.

(D) Services under divisions (A) and (B) of this section shall be provided for as long as the web site and phone hotline remain active.

Section 2. This act is an emergency measure necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, and safety. The reason for such necessity is to make accessible vital information regarding COVID-19 to individuals who are not proficient in English during the state of emergency declared by Executive Order 2020-01D, issued on March 9, 2020. Therefore, this act shall go into immediate effect.