

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 1
COVID-19 web site and phone hotline accessible 2
in multiple languages and to declare an 3
emergency. 4

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

Section 1. (A) The department of health shall make the 5
COVID-19 web site, at <http://coronavirus.odh.gov>, available in 6
all of the following additional languages: 7

- (1) Spanish; 8
- (2) Chinese; 9
- (3) Arabic; 10
- (4) Somali; 11
- (5) Nepali. 12

(B) The department shall provide operators that speak, or 13
translation services for, all of the following additional 14
languages for the COVID-19 phone hotline, at 1-833-427-5634: 15

- (1) Spanish; 16
- (2) Chinese; 17

(3) Arabic; 18

(4) Somali; 19

(5) Nepali. 20

(C) In providing services under divisions (A) and (B) of 21
this section, the department may enlist the assistance of 22
language translation and interpretation services that are 23
available through any county department of job and family 24
services. 25

(D) Services under divisions (A) and (B) of this section 26
shall be provided for as long as the web site and phone hotline 27
remain active. 28

Section 2. This act is an emergency measure necessary for 29
the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, and 30
safety. The reason for such necessity is to make accessible 31
vital information regarding COVID-19 to individuals who are not 32
proficient in English during the state of emergency declared by 33
Executive Order 2020-01D, issued on March 9, 2020. Therefore, 34
this act shall go into immediate effect. 35