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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2025

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A N A C T

RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- OPEN MEETINGS

Introduced By: Representatives Felix, J. Lombardi, Batista, Hull, Tanzi, Giraldo, Stewart,  
Potter, Cruz, and Morales

Date Introduced: February 13, 2025

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, including American Sign Language  
7 (ASL).

8 (b) The public body shall implement the translation assistance plan under this section by  
9 September 1, 2026.

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

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

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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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