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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2025

A N A C T

RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- OPEN MEETINGS

Introduced By: Senators Bissaillon, Urso, and DiPalma

Date Introduced: March 14, 2025

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, 2026.

9 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

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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