

By Mrs. Murray of Cohasset, petition of Mary Jeanette Murray for legislation to designate English as the official language of the Commonwealth. State Administration.

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Ninety-Two.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 2 of the General Laws is hereby  
2 amended by inserting after section 32 the following section: —

3 Section 33. The English language is hereby designated and shall  
4 be known as the official language of the commonwealth. Neither  
5 the commonwealth nor any political subdivision thereof shall  
6 require by statute, ordinance, regulation, order, program or policy  
7 the use in the state of any language other than English.  
8 Governmental officials and employees shall be bound by the  
9 provisions of this act during the performance of governmental  
10 business.

11 The commonwealth and all political subdivisions thereof shall  
12 take all reasonable steps to preserve, protect and enhance the role  
13 of the English language as the official language of the state.  
14 Notwithstanding any provision of this act to the contrary, the  
15 commonwealth and its political subdivisions may act in a language  
16 other than English (1) to assist students who are not proficient  
17 in the English language, by providing educational instruction in  
18 languages other than English to provide as rapid as possible a  
19 transition to English; (2) to comply with federal laws; (3) to  
20 provide foreign language instruction as part of a required or  
21 voluntary education curriculum; (4) to protect public health and  
22 safety; and (5) to protect the rights of criminal defendants or  
23 victims of crime; and that nothing in this act shall prohibit the  
24 printing of proper names.

1 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect on July first, nineteen  
2 hundred and ninety-one.

