

HB 1337 -- OFFICIAL STATE LANGUAGE

SPONSOR: Nieves

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Committee on Tourism and Cultural Affairs by a vote of 15 to 2.

This bill states that the General Assembly will recognize English as the official language used in the state. Current law says that it is the common language used in the state.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds in FY 2005, FY 2006, and FY 2007.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say this will unify people and ensure that official documents are in English.

Testifying for the bill were Representatives Nieves and Marsh; Missouri Eagle Forum; Mid-America Immigration Reform Coalition; and Janet Engelbach.

OPPOSERS: Those who oppose the bill say it is not good state policy.

Testifying against the bill were Missouri Women's Network; and Missouri National Organization for Women.

Robert Triplett, Legislative Analyst