

Good afternoon, Chair Coffey, and Committee Assistant Lowell,

Thank you for taking testimony from the Office of Racial Equity on S.184, An act relating to the temporary use of automated traffic law enforcement (ATLE) systems. I have attached a copy of S.184 As Passed by Senate with the Office's recommendations for language access provisions and other elements of the Office's testimony included as comments on the document. Please let me know if you have trouble viewing the comments. I find opening the document using Adobe Acrobat to be the most effective way to view the comments on a .pdf file.

In case the comments do not appear, here are the specific recommendations relating to language access provisions:

Page 8, line 4, 23 V.S.A. §1606(g)(2) regarding notice of civil violation: Suggest adding "(g)(2)(H) contain a notice of language access services informing people with language access needs on how to contact the issuing Agency if they need an interpreter to understand the information contained in the notice." (or provision to that effect) - note this is already a federal requirement to provide a notice of language access services on documents requiring a response from the recipient. Not doing so may constitute discrimination based on national origin.

Page 22, lines 6-9, Sec. 3. IMPLEMENTATION; OUTREACH: Suggest adding a provision to (c) that "campaign materials shall be translated into languages other than English." (or a similar provision ensuring that non-English materials are made available). The Office does not recommend listing out a specific set of languages. As discussed in Committee today, the list of languages should include commonly spoken languages in Vermont and neighboring states whose residents travel to Vermont. The Office has not yet had the opportunity to consult with other stakeholders to identify that list of languages. However, if the Committee wishes to add provisions instructing the Department of Public Safety on which languages to include, the Office recommends inserting a provision such as, "the Department shall consult with the Office of Racial Equity, the Department of Motor Vehicles, and Vermont language services organizations to determine the appropriate languages for translation of public outreach materials."

Best,

Jay

Mx. Jay Greene, MPH
Personal pronouns-they/them (more info on pronouns)
Racial Equity Policy and Research Analyst
State of Vermont Office of Racial Equity
109 State St. Pavilion
Montpelier, VT 05609
Phone: (802) 461-6335