1   S.111

2   Introduced by Senator Gulick

3   Referred to Committee on

4   Date:

5   Subject: General provisions; common law; general rights; interpreters for

6   judicial, administrative, and legislative proceedings; language access

7   for critical services

8   Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to require the

9   Department of Public Safety and the Department of Health to establish and

10   maintain contracts with organizations to provide translated material for critical

11   services provided by a State agency. This bill also proposes to appropriate

12      $250,000.00 for the creation of informational media and advertisements

13   concerning the availability of translated material for critical services provided

14   by State agencies.

15   An act relating to language access and emergency response

16   It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

17   Sec. 1. 1 V.S.A. § 340 is added to read:

18   § 340. LANGUAGE ACCESS FOR CRITICAL SERVICES

19   (a) As used in this section:

1   (1) "Critical services" means services that are provided in response to an

2 all-hazard event as defined by 20 V.S.A. § 2 or information provided by a State

3 agency that affects an individual's legal rights, privileges, or duties.

4   (2) "Translated material" means any written or recorded information

5 that is translated for individuals who do not speak English.

6   (b) The Department of Public Safety and the Department of Health shall

7 establish and maintain contracts with organizations within the State to provide

8 translated material for any critical services provided by a State agency.

9 Sec. 2. APPROPRIATIONS

10   In fiscal year 2026, the following sums are appropriated from the General

11 Fund for purposes of producing informational media and advertisements

12 concerning the availability of translated material for critical services:

13   (1) $125,000.00 to the Department of Public Safety; and

14   (2) $125,000.00 to the Department of Health.

15 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

16   This act shall take effect on July 1, 2025.