

House Bill 1682

By: Representative Lim of the 99th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1 To amend Article 8 of Chapter 2 of Title 35 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
2 relating to the Office of Public Safety Support, so as to require such office to provide certain
3 language and disability accessibility services; to amend Chapter 1 of Title 43 of the Official
4 Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to general provisions for professions and businesses,
5 so as to prohibit licensing boards from requiring applicants to pass an English proficiency
6 examination; to provide an exception; to amend Article 1 of Chapter 5 of Title 50 of the
7 Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to general provisions for the Department of
8 Administrative Services, so as to require the department to assist citizens and local
9 governments with providing language, disability, and other accessibility services for any
10 state money grants, loans, contracts, or other potential sources of funding; to amend Code
11 Section 50-25-5.1 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to chief information
12 officer, appointment and removal, compensation, and powers and duties, so as to require
13 state websites to be accessible in languages other than English; to provide for related matters;
14 to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

15 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

16 **SECTION 1.**

17 Article 8 of Chapter 2 of Title 35 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the
18 Office of Public Safety Support, is amended by adding a new Code section to read as
19 follows:

20 "35-2-165.

21 (a) The Office of Public Safety Support within the Department of Public Safety shall
22 provide support services regarding language, disability, and other accessibility to any
23 requesting public entities that employ public safety officers.

24 (b) The support coordinator provided for in this article, with approval of the commissioner,
25 may employ or retain persons as he or she deems necessary to serve as staff consistent with
26 the purposes of this article."

27 **SECTION 2.**

28 Chapter 1 of Title 43 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to general
29 provisions for professions and businesses, is amended by adding a new Code section to read
30 as follows:

31 "43-1-35.

32 Except as provided for in Code Section 43-26-61, no licensing board subject to this title
33 shall require any applicant for licensing to demonstrate the ability to speak, write, and
34 understand the English language solely through passage of an English proficiency
35 examination."

36 **SECTION 3.**

37 Article 1 of Chapter 5 of Title 50 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
38 general provisions for the Department of Administrative Services, is amended by adding a new
39 Code section to read as follows:

40 "50-5-18.
41 The Department of Administrative Services shall provide support to any resident of the
42 state who seeks assistance regarding language, disability, and other accessibility challenges
43 to accessing any state money grants, loans, contracts, or other potential sources of funding
44 that are administered or offered by the department. The department shall also provide
45 support services to any unit of state government or any local political subdivisions or
46 authority that seek support regarding language, disability, and any other accessibility
47 challenges with respect to administration of grants, loans, contracts, or other potential
48 sources of funding."

49 **SECTION 4.**

50 Code Section 50-25-5.1 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to chief
51 information officer, appointment and removal, compensation, and powers and duties, is
52 amended by adding a new paragraph to subsection (b) to read as follows:

53 "(6.1) To ensure that all websites operated or maintained by the state government are
54 accessible in languages other than English and to persons with disabilities;"

55 **SECTION 5.**

56 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.