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ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 131—ASSEMBLYMAN MCARTHUR

PREFILED FEBRUARY 10, 2017

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JOINT SPONSOR: SENATOR GUSTAVSON

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Referred to Committee on Government Affairs

SUMMARY—Designates English as the official language of the State of Nevada. (BDR 19-797)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No.  
Effect on the State: No.

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EXPLANATION – Matter in *bolded italics* is new; matter between brackets ~~omitted material~~ is material to be omitted.

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AN ACT relating to governmental administration; designating English as the official language of the State of Nevada; requiring certain governmental documents, transactions, proceedings, meetings and publications to be in English; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

**Legislative Counsel’s Digest:**

1 This bill designates English as the official language of the State of Nevada and,  
2 with limited exceptions, requires that all official governmental documents,  
3 transactions, proceedings, meetings and publications be in the English language.

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THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN  
SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

1 **Section 1.** Chapter 235 of NRS is hereby amended by adding  
2 thereto a new section to read as follows:

3 *1. English is hereby designated as the official language of the*  
4 *State of Nevada.*

5 *2. As the official language of this State, the English language*  
6 *is the sole language of State Government, local governments and*  
7 *other political subdivisions thereof, except as otherwise provided*  
8 *in this section.*

9 *3. All official documents, transactions, proceedings, meetings*  
10 *and publications issued, conducted or regulated by, on behalf of,*



- 1 *or representing the State, local governments or other political*  
2 *subdivisions thereof must be in English, except that a language*  
3 *other than English may be used when required:*  
4 *(a) By the United States Constitution, the Nevada Constitution*  
5 *or a federal statute or regulation;*  
6 *(b) To protect public health and safety;*  
7 *(c) In judicial proceedings to ensure that justice is carried out;*  
8 *(d) To refer to a proper name, a term of art or a phrase from a*  
9 *language other than English;*  
10 *(e) To promote commerce, trade or tourism;*  
11 *(f) To provide instruction in a foreign language; and*  
12 *(g) To facilitate activities relating to conducting any census of*  
13 *populations.*

