



2020 South Dakota Legislature

Senate Bill 70

HOUSE TRANSPORTATION ENGROSSED

Introduced by: **Senator** V. J. Smith

1 **An Act to authorize other languages to be used in the process of issuing certain**
2 **driver licenses and permits.**

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA:

4 **Section 1.** That § 1-27-22 be AMENDED:

5 **1-27-22. Application of English as common language requirement.**

6 The provisions of §§ 1-27-20 to 1-27-25, inclusive, do not apply:

- 7 (1) To instruction in foreign language courses;
- 8 (2) To instruction designed to aid students with limited English proficiency in a timely
9 transition and integration into the general education system;
- 10 (3) To the application, preparation materials, and examination for any noncommercial
11 driver license or permit;
- 12 (4) To the conduct of international commerce, tourism, and sporting events;
- 13 ~~(4)~~(5) When deemed to interfere with needs of the justice system;
- 14 ~~(5)~~(6) When the public safety, health, or emergency services require the use of other
15 languages; and
- 16 ~~(6)~~(7) When expert testimony, witnesses, or speakers require a language other than the
17 common language. However, for purposes of deliberation, decision making, or
18 record keeping, the official version of such testimony or commentary shall be the
19 officially translated English language version.

20 **Section 2.** That a NEW SECTION be added:

21 **32-12-127. License applications and examination materials--Spanish**
22 **language.**

23 The Department of Public Safety shall offer license and permit applications,
24 examination materials, or conduct written examinations in the Spanish language, in

- 1 addition to English, for noncommercial driver licenses and permits. However, the skills
- 2 portion of the driver license test shall continue to be administered in English.
- 3 **Section 3.** Section 2 of this Act is effective on January 1, 2022.