

## Department of Planning and Budget

### 2022 Fiscal Impact Statement

**1. Bill Number:** SB270

House of Origin	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Introduced	<input type="checkbox"/>	Substitute	<input type="checkbox"/>	Engrossed
Second House	<input type="checkbox"/>	In Committee	<input type="checkbox"/>	Substitute	<input type="checkbox"/>	Enrolled

**2. Patron:** Hashmi

**3. Committee:** General Laws and Technology

**4. Title:** Administration of government; language access equity; report.

**5. Summary:** Establishes the Interagency Language Access Working Group in the Office of the Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion with the following membership: the Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, the Director of the Office of the Children's Ombudsman, the Governor's Secretaries, and six nonlegislative citizen members representing organizations that represent individuals with language access needs. The Working Group is established for the purpose of maximizing state policies, resources, technical assistance, and procurement practices to further language access and equity in the Commonwealth and its state government agencies. The bill also requires each state agency to designate a language access coordinator who will be responsible for the agency's annual language access report, the requirements of which are set out in the bill. The Secretary of Administration is directed to establish criteria for state agencies to procure language interpretation and translation services and to establish a policy for compensating multilingual state employees who are required as part of their job to provide interpretation, translation, or other bilingual skills at least once a month.

**6. Budget Amendment Necessary:** No. See Item 8.

**7. Fiscal Impact Estimates:** Indeterminate, See Item 8.

**8. Fiscal Implications:** This legislation requires the Secretary of Administration to issue guidelines on the procurement of language interpretation and translation services by state agencies and compensation of multilingual state employees who provide translation or interpretation services as part of their job. The estimated cost to develop these guidelines is currently indeterminate.

The bill also establishes an Interagency Language Access Working Group, which requires participation by the Governor's secretaries, the Director of the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, the Director of the Office of the Children's Ombudsman, and six nonlegislative citizen members. The work group is required to meet quarterly or as called by the chairman. The estimated cost of reimbursing travel and lodging for six nonlegislative citizen members of the working group is \$7,560 annually.

Finally, the bill requires each state agency to designate a language access coordinator and produce an annual language access report with components outlined in the legislation. The impact of this provision is indeterminate, as some agencies may have the capacity to use existing staff, whereas others may need additional staff to implement the requirements of the bill.

HB30/SB30 provides \$7,903,000 in fiscal year 2023 and \$2,903,000 in fiscal year 2024 in Central Appropriations Item 485 for agencies to facilitate and improve language access. This funding is available to be transferred to impacted state agencies in order to support provisions of this legislation.

**9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected:** All state agencies

**10. Technical Amendment Necessary:** No

**11. Other Comments:** This bill is identical to HB1049.