



WASHOE COUNTY

Integrity Communication Service

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STAFF REPORT

BOARD MEETING DATE: *January 16, 2024*

DATE: December 7, 2023

TO: Board of County Commissioners

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THROUGH: Eric P. Brown, Washoe County Manager

SUBJECT: Authorize the County Manager to designate one or more employees to be responsible for developing and biennially updating a language access plan for the County pursuant to Nevada Assembly Bill 266. Manager's Office and Human Resources. (All Commission Districts.) FOR POSSIBLE ACTION

SUMMARY

Assembly Bill 266 was passed by the Nevada Legislature and approved by the Governor on June 15, 2023. Section 3 of the bill requires the governing body of a county to designate one or more employees of the county to be responsible for developing and biennially revising a language access plan for the county and to meet the requirements set forth in the bill. The plan must be submitted to the Office of New Americans in the Office of the Governor on or before August 1 of each even-numbered year. The County Manager will designate one or more employees to be responsible for the development of this plan and compliance with the bill's mandates. Staff will bring a future agenda item to report on the progress and proposed plan with sufficient time for review, consideration of recommendations and additional staffing and funds necessary to meet the needs of Washoe County residents with limited English proficiency (LEP) pursuant to Section 3, subsection 4(b) of the bill.

Washoe County Strategic Objective supported by this item: Economic Impacts, Innovative Services, Vulnerable Populations.

PREVIOUS ACTION

None.

AGENDA ITEM # _____

BACKGROUND

Nevada Assembly Bill 266 (AB266) was signed into law on June 15, 2023. It requires counties in Nevada with a population greater than 100,000 and the cities within those counties to develop an organization wide Language Access Plan to ensure limited English proficient (LEP) individuals have consistent and equitable access to services and programs across the organization.

In addition to Assembly Bill 266 (2023), Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights act, to which Washoe County is subject to full compliance, requires a public entity receiving and utilizing federal funds to have an established Language Access Plan (LAP).

During the strategic planning equity update provided to the Board of County Commissioners at the June 20, 2023 meeting, language access was discussed as a priority initiative for Washoe County.

Washoe County's initial steps toward compliance with AB66 (2023) are (1) the request to designate Manager Brown as the person responsible for the plan, (2) adopt a Language Access Plan policy through the Board, and (3) begin to translate the planning commission meeting agendas and associated public notices in the same languages that Washoe County prints ballots for elections.

AB 266 (2023) requires several areas of compliance with language access, including, but not limited to, ensuring the county develops process and procedure for informing the public that certain public notices and agendas issued by the county are available on the county website in the languages in which ballots are printed for elections.

FISCAL IMPACT

None at this time.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board of County Commissioners authorize the County Manager to designate one or more employees to be responsible for developing and biennially updating a language access plan for the County pursuant to Nevada Assembly Bill 266. (All Commission Districts.)

POSSIBLE MOTION

Should the Board agree with staff's recommendation, a possible motion would be:

“Move to authorize the County Manager to designate one or more employees to be responsible for developing and biennially updating a language access plan for the County pursuant to Nevada Assembly Bill 266.”