



FACT SHEET
AB 413 (Mike Fong)
As Introduced February 4, 2025

SUMMARY

AB 413 requires the Housing and Community Development Department (HCD) to review and determine whether any of its guidelines explain services to the public, and translate such guidelines into non-English languages.

BACKGROUND

The HCD, within the Business, Consumer Services, and Housing Agency, is charged with, among other things, providing technical advice and consultation, and providing bilingual staff and departmental publications in languages other than English when necessary.

The Dymally-Alatorre Bilingual Services Act, first enacted in 1973, requires every state agency directly involved in the furnishing of information or provision of services to the public to employ bilingual personnel and to translate materials in any non-English language spoken by a substantial number of the people served by the agency.

The Act defines a substantial number of non-English speaking people who do not speak English or are unable to communicate effectively in English as 5% or more of the people served. It was established to eliminate any language barriers that preclude people from equal access to public services.

According to the United State’s Census Bureau’s 2023 American Communities Survey, 11% of Californians speak Spanish at home and English less than “very well” and 5% speak an Asian and Pacific Islander at home and English less than “very well”.

NEED FOR THE BILL

California is in the midst of an unprecedented housing crisis that continues to contribute to

homelessness, erode quality of life, and stifle its economy.

Recent statutory changes authorize and allow the construction of hundreds of thousands of new units through streamlined permitting, land use reform, housing element law, accountability, and more.

One area of focus are Accessory Dwelling Units (ADU). The ADU handbook, published by HCD, has not been translated into a non-English language, despite the large number of Non-English speakers that may utilize such information to not only bolster their family’s economic stability, but increase the supply of housing.

AB 413 helps HCD address the state’s housing crisis and ensures that Californians are not denied access and information from their government due to language barriers.

SOLUTION

AB 413 requires HCD to review its guidelines and translate materials which explain services to the public in order for Californians to utilize housing policies and resources that will promote language justice and address the state’s housing crisis.

SUPPORT

California YIMBY (Sponsor)
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