

By Representative Melvin

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to English as the official  
3           language of Florida; creating the Task Force on  
4           English as the Official Language of Florida;  
5           providing for membership and duties; requiring  
6           a report to the Governor and the Legislature;  
7           providing an effective date.

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9   Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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11           Section 1. Task Force on English as the Official  
12 Language of Florida; composition; duties.--

13           (1) The Task Force on English as the Official Language  
14 of Florida is created to study and implement s. 9, Art. II of  
15 the State Constitution, which designates English as the  
16 official language of the state. The Lieutenant Governor shall  
17 serve as the chair of the task force and the remaining 10  
18 members of the task force shall be appointed as follows:

19           (a) The Governor shall appoint four members.

20           (b) The President of the Senate shall appoint three  
21 members.

22           (c) The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall  
23 appoint three members.

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25 Appointments shall be made within 60 days after the effective  
26 date of this act and the first meeting of the task force shall  
27 take place within 30 days after the appointments are made.  
28 Staff from the Majority Offices of the Senate and the House of  
29 Representatives shall provide staff services for the task  
30 force.

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- 1           (2) The issues to be considered by the task force  
2 include, but are not limited to, the following:  
3           (a) Requiring total immersion of non-English-speaking  
4 students in English classes.  
5           (b) Requiring all educators at all levels to be  
6 competent speakers of English to the degree that no individual  
7 will have difficulty understanding the educator.  
8           (c) Prohibiting the judicial branch and any  
9 department, agency, division, county, municipality, or other  
10 subdivision of state government that is funded totally or  
11 partially, directly or indirectly, by public funding to print  
12 documents in any language other than English, except in the  
13 course of carrying out specific duties such as advertising for  
14 foreign services. All applications for licenses and permits  
15 shall be printed in English. Any law, rule, or ordinance  
16 presently in force shall be amended to comply with the  
17 requirements of this act.  
18           (3) The task force shall submit a report to the  
19 Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the  
20 House of Representatives by January 31, 2003.

21           Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a  
22 law.

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25           HOUSE SUMMARY

26           Creates the Task Force on English as the Official  
27 Language of Florida. Provides for membership and duties  
28 of the task force. Requires a report to the Governor and  
29 the Legislature.  
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