

State of South Dakota

NINETY-FOURTH SESSION
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, 2019

729B0127

SENATE BILL NO. 117

Introduced by: Senators Nesiba, Curd, Foster, Heinert, Kennedy, Kolbeck, Partridge, Smith (VJ), Soholt, Solano, Steinhauer, and Wismer and Representatives Duba, Bordeaux, Borglum, Cwach, Diedrich, Duvall, Healy, Lesmeister, McCleerey, Peterson (Kent), Pourier, Reed, Ring, Saba, Schoenfish, Smith (Jamie), Sullivan, Willadsen, and Zikmund

1 FOR AN ACT ENTITLED, An Act to authorize other languages to be used in the process of
2 issuing certain 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 to read:

5 1-27-22. The provisions of §§ 1-27-20 to 1-27-25, inclusive, do not apply:

6 (1) To instruction in foreign language courses;

7 (2) To instruction designed to aid students with limited English proficiency in a timely
8 transition and integration into the general education system;

9 (3) To the application, preparation materials, and examination for any noncommercial
10 driver license or permit;

11 (4) To the conduct of international commerce, tourism, and sporting events;

12 ~~(4)~~(5) When deemed to interfere with needs of the justice system;

13 ~~(5)~~(6) When the public safety, health, or emergency services require the use of other



1 languages; and

2 ~~(6)~~(7) When expert testimony, witnesses, or speakers require a language other than the
3 common language. However, for purposes of deliberation, decision making, or record
4 keeping, the official version of such testimony or commentary shall be the officially
5 translated English language version.

6 Section 2. That chapter 1-27 be amended by adding a NEW SECTION to read:

7 Nothing in this chapter prevents the Department of Public Safety from offering any driver
8 license and permit application and examination material or conducting any examination in the
9 Spanish language.

10 Section 3. That chapter 32-12 be amended by adding a NEW SECTION to read:

11 The Department of Public Safety shall offer license and permit applications, examination
12 materials, or conduct examinations in Spanish language, in addition to English, for
13 noncommercial driver licenses and permits.

14 Section 4. Section 3 of this Act is effective on January 1, 2021.