



Legislation Text

File #: 2014-0291, **Version:** 1

A MOTION acknowledging receipt of a report on a countywide action plan to engage and increase access to King County government services and operations for limited English proficiency populations in compliance with the 2014 Annual Budget Ordinance, Ordinance 17695, Section 18, Proviso P3, as amended.

WHEREAS, the 2014 Annual Budget Ordinance, Ordinance 17695, Section 18, Proviso P3, as amended, related to engaging limited English proficiency ("LEP") populations, states that \$100,000 should not be expended or encumbered until the executive transmits a report and motion, by June 30, 2014, on an action plan to engage and increase access to King County government services and operations for LEP populations, and

WHEREAS, more than one hundred seventy different languages are spoken in King County and one-quarter of the county's population, which is over four hundred fifty thousand residents, speak a language other than English at home, and

WHEREAS, about eleven percent of county residents over the age of five, which is nearly two hundred thousand people, live in "linguistic isolation," meaning that they speak a language other than English and no one in their households over the age of five speaks English very well, and

WHEREAS the Washington state and King County populations are becoming increasingly racially and ethnically diverse and Washington is among the states with the highest growth rates of LEP populations and with the largest LEP populations, and much of that growth is concentrated in and around the King County area, and

WHEREAS, the language barriers faced by LEP populations can impede effective and accurate

communication and inhibit, or even prohibit, LEP populations from either accessing or understanding, or both, important rights, obligations and availability of public sector services, including those provided by King County, and

WHEREAS, K.C.C. 2.10.200 through 2.10.230 calls out the county's LEP populations as one of the most marginalized groups in our community and one for which the County should strive to provide equitable access to services, and

WHEREAS, the King County executive has transmitted to the council a report that contains the required information responding to Ordinance 17695, Section 18, Proviso P3, as amended, including:

1. An examination of outreach strategies used to engage LEP populations;
2. An examination of the pros and cons for continuing current practices with incremental improvements, significantly increasing coordination countywide, and developing centralized resources;
3. Strategies to coordinate services across all department, agencies and offices;
4. Recommendations by the workgroup for improvements to current practices for the provision of services to and genuine engagement of LEP residents; and
5. A timeline necessary to implement the action plan;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT MOVED by the Council of King County:

The council acknowledges receipt of the executive's report in compliance with the 2014 Annual Budget Ordinance 17695, Section 18, Proviso, P3, as amended, which report is Attachment A to this motion.