



**152nd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL NOTE**

BILL: SENATE BILL NO. 82
SPONSOR: Senator Walsh
DESCRIPTION: AN ACT TO AMEND TITLE 29 OF THE DELAWARE CODE RELATING TO IMPROVING COMMUNICATION ASSISTANCE FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY AND DISABILITIES.

Assumptions:

1. This Act becomes effective upon signature by the Governor.
2. This Act requires specific State programs to submit annual reports to the General Assembly about compliance with federal and State laws and regulations that require meaningful access to services for individuals with limited English proficiency (LEP) and effective communication for individuals with disabilities.
3. This Act also requires that the Department of Justice (DOJ), for two years after enactment, unless extended by an act of the General Assembly, provide interpretation and translation services or other auxiliary aids to assist individuals with LEP or disabilities to better understand and participate in matters related to manufactured housing leases and evictions, residential leases and evictions, and residential home purchase and foreclosure. These services would be available upon request to any of the aforementioned transaction types, of which it is assumed there are hundreds of thousands each year in this State.
4. To comply with this Act, the DOJ would need to contract with an interpretation, translation, and auxiliary aid services provider(s). An estimate for these services is indeterminable as the number of individuals needing this type of assistance in the future is unknown. Several entities are currently accessible by contract through a Government Support Services agreement. Pricing varies depending on the type(s) of service(s) needed. This Act specifies that the DOJ is not required to spend more than \$48,500 on translation and interpretation services and auxiliary aids in the fiscal year following enactment.
5. The DOJ estimates it would require a limited-term Legal Assistant III to coordinate intake and arrange for interpretation, translation, and auxiliary aid services at each transaction when it is requested. The Fiscal Year 2024 personnel costs, including other employment costs at a rate of 32.25%, for the FTE position are estimated at \$62,907, and one-time funding of \$3,500 for projected technology equipment and furniture costs related to the startup of this position.
6. The Fiscal Year 2024 personnel costs have been estimated for nine months of funding, with the annualization of the remaining three months incorporated into the subsequent year estimate. It is assumed that this position would not be needed in Fiscal Year 2026 unless an act of the General Assembly extends this program.
7. Reporting required by the Act is to inform the General Assembly regarding appropriations necessary in future years to improve meaningful program access for individuals with limited English proficiency and effective communication for individuals with disabilities.

Cost:

	<u>One-Time</u>	<u>Operating/Recurring</u>
Fiscal Year 2024:	Maximum \$52,000	\$62,610
Fiscal Year 2025:		\$85,149
Fiscal Year 2026:		Not Applicable

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Office of the Controller General