

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2011**

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HOUSE BILL 475

Short Title: English the Official Language. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Hastings, Hilton, and Pridgen (Primary Sponsors).
For a complete list of Sponsors, see Bill Information on the NCGA Web Site.

Referred to: Judiciary.

March 28, 2011

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO AMEND THE NORTH CAROLINA CONSTITUTION TO MAKE ENGLISH
3 THE OFFICIAL LANGUAGE.

4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

5 **SECTION 1.** Article XIV of the North Carolina Constitution is amended by adding
6 a new section to read:

7 "Sec. 6. English is the official language of North Carolina.

8 (1) English is the common language of the people of the United States of America and
9 the State of North Carolina. This section is intended to preserve, protect, and strengthen the
10 English language and not to supersede any of the rights guaranteed to the people by the
11 Constitution of the United States or the Constitution of North Carolina.

12 (2) English is the official language of the State of North Carolina."

13 **SECTION 2.** The amendment set out in Section 1 of this act shall be submitted to
14 the qualified voters of the State at the statewide general election in November of 2012, which
15 election shall be conducted under the laws then governing elections in the State. Ballots,
16 voting systems, or both may be used in accordance with Chapter 163 of the General Statutes.
17 The question to be used in the voting systems and ballots shall be:

18 "[] FOR [] AGAINST

19 Constitutional amendment providing that English is the official language of the
20 State of North Carolina."

21 **SECTION 3.** If a majority of votes cast on the question are in favor of the
22 amendment set out in Section 1 of this act, the State Board of Elections shall certify the
23 amendment to the Secretary of State. The Secretary of State shall enroll the amendment so
24 certified among the permanent records of that office and it is effective upon such enrollment.

25 **SECTION 4.** This act is effective when it becomes law.

