

**AMENDMENT TO RULES COMMITTEE PRINT 117-4**  
**OFFERED BY MR. HERN OF OKLAHOMA**

Add at the end of the bill the following:

1 **TITLE IV—ENGLISH LANGUAGE**  
2 **UNITY**

3 **SEC. 401. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This title may be cited as the “English Language  
5 Unity Act of 2021”.

6 **SEC. 402. ENGLISH AS OFFICIAL LANGUAGE OF THE**  
7 **UNITED STATES.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—Title 4, United States Code, is  
9 amended by adding at the end the following new chapter:

10 **“CHAPTER 6—OFFICIAL LANGUAGE**

11 **“§ 161. Official language of the United States**

12 “The official language of the United States is  
13 English.

14 **“§ 162. Preserving and enhancing the role of the offi-**  
15 **cial language**

16 “Representatives of the Federal Government shall  
17 have an affirmative obligation to preserve and enhance the  
18 role of English as the official language of the Federal Gov-  
19 ernment. Such obligation shall include encouraging great-

1 er opportunities for individuals to learn the English lan-  
2 guage.

3 **“§ 163. Official functions of Government to be con-  
4 ducted in English**

5 “(a) OFFICIAL FUNCTIONS.—The official functions  
6 of the Government of the United States shall be conducted  
7 in English.

8 “(b) SCOPE.—For the purposes of this section, the  
9 term ‘United States’ means the several States and the  
10 District of Columbia, and the term ‘official’ refers to any  
11 function that (i) binds the Government, (ii) is required  
12 by law, or (iii) is otherwise subject to scrutiny by either  
13 the press or the public.

14 “(c) PRACTICAL EFFECT.—This section shall apply  
15 to all laws, public proceedings, regulations, publications,  
16 orders, actions, programs, and policies, but does not apply  
17 to—

18 “(1) teaching of languages;

19 “(2) requirements under the Individuals with  
20 Disabilities Education Act;

21 “(3) actions, documents, or policies necessary  
22 for national security, international relations, trade,  
23 tourism, or commerce;

24 “(4) actions or documents that protect the pub-  
25 lic health and safety;



1           “(2) to limit the preservation or use of Native  
2 Alaskan or Native American languages (as defined  
3 in the Native American Languages Act);

4           “(3) to disparage any language or to discourage  
5 any person from learning or using a language; or

6           “(4) to be inconsistent with the Constitution of  
7 the United States.

8 **“§ 166. Standing**

9           “A person injured by a violation of this chapter may  
10 in a civil action (including an action under chapter 151  
11 of title 28) obtain appropriate relief.”.

12           (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of chapters  
13 at the beginning of title 4, United States Code, is amended  
14 by inserting after the item relating to chapter 5 the fol-  
15 lowing new item:

“CHAPTER 6. OFFICIAL LANGUAGE”.

16 **SEC. 403. GENERAL RULES OF CONSTRUCTION FOR**  
17 **ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEXTS OF THE LAWS OF**  
18 **THE UNITED STATES.**

19           (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 1 of title 1, United  
20 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the fol-  
21 lowing new section:

22 **“§ 9. General rules of construction for laws of the**  
23 **United States**

24           “(a) English language requirements and workplace  
25 policies, whether in the public or private sector, shall be

1 presumptively consistent with the laws of the United  
2 States.

3 “(b) Any ambiguity in the English language text of  
4 the laws of the United States shall be resolved, in accord-  
5 ance with the last two articles of the Bill of Rights, not  
6 to deny or disparage rights retained by the people, and  
7 to reserve powers to the States respectively, or to the peo-  
8 ple.”.

9 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections  
10 at the beginning of chapter 1 of title 1 is amended by  
11 inserting after the item relating to section 8 the following  
12 new item:

“9. General rules of construction for laws of the United States.”.

13 **SEC. 404. IMPLEMENTING REGULATIONS.**

14 The Secretary of Homeland Security shall, within  
15 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, issue  
16 for public notice and comment a proposed rule for uniform  
17 testing of English language ability of candidates for natu-  
18 ralization, based upon the principles that—

19 (1) all citizens should be able to read and un-  
20 derstand generally the English language text of the  
21 Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, and  
22 the laws of the United States which are made in  
23 pursuance thereof; and

1           (2) any exceptions to this standard should be  
2           limited to extraordinary circumstances, such as asy-  
3           lum.

4 **SEC. 405. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

5           The amendments made by sections 402 and 403 shall  
6           take effect on the date that is 180 days after the date  
7           of the enactment of this Act.

