

AB377 • Wisconsin

Establishing English as the official state language, use of artificial intelligence or other machine-assisted translation tools in lieu of appointing English language interpreters, and use of English for governmental oral and written communication and for nongovernmental purposes. (FE)

In Committee

Risk: Medium

Comprehensive

Last Action (Mar 23, 2026): Failed to concur in pursuant to Senate Joint Resolution 1

Summary

AB377 establishes English as the official state language, allowing AI translation tools instead of interpreters, and affects both governmental and nongovernmental purposes.

Business Impact

If you operate in Wisconsin and provide translation services, you must consider using AI tools for governmental communications or face potential compliance issues.

Key Provisions

- Establishes English as the official state language for governmental and nongovernmental purposes (Section 1.101).
- Allows the use of AI or machine-assisted translation tools instead of appointing English language interpreters.
- Amends sections 885.37 (1), 885.37 (3) (b), and 885.38 (3) (a) (intro.) to support the establishment of English as the official language.

Compliance Checklist

- Implement AI translation tools for governmental communications | Who: Governmental entities in Wisconsin | Penalty: Potential operational challenges and legal scrutiny

Industries Affected

Topics

AI in Government

Comprehensive AI

Bill Sponsors

Name	Party	Role
C. Taylor		Primary
Vruwink		Primary
Shankland		Primary
Crowley		Primary
Hesselbein		Primary
Billings		Primary
Genrich		Primary
Young		Primary
Mason		Primary
Berceau		Primary
Sinicki		Primary
Hebl		Primary

Roll Call Votes

Date	Description	Yea	Nay	Result
2026-03-11	Report concurrence recommended by Committee on Gov	3	2	Passed
2026-01-15	PASSAGE	51	45	Passed
2025-11-12	Report Assembly Amendment 1 adoption recommended b	6	0	Passed
2025-11-12	Report Assembly Amendment 2 adoption recommended b	6	0	Passed
2025-11-12	Report passage as amended recommended by Committee	4	2	Passed

Amendments

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- Assembly Amendment 1 — 2025-10-30 (Not Adopted)
 - Assembly Amendment 2 — 2025-11-04 (Not Adopted)
 - Senate Amendment 1 — 2026-03-12 (Not Adopted)

Official Source

<https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2025/proposals/reg/asm/bill/ab377>

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