

# State of South Dakota

EIGHTY-FOURTH SESSION  
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, 2009

952Q0147

## SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 2

Introduced by: Senators Rhoden, Abdallah, Adelstein, Ahlers, Bartling, Fryslie, Garnos, Gray, Hansen (Tom), Hanson (Gary), Haverly, Howie, Hundstad, Maher, Nelson, Schmidt, and Vehle and Representatives Noem, Brunner, Elliott, Hoffman, Kopp, Lederman, McLaughlin, Novstrup (David), Olson (Betty), Rausch, Sly, Steele, Turbiville, Van Gerpen, and Verchio

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION, Proposing and submitting to the electors at the next general election  
2 an amendment to Article VI of the Constitution of the State of South Dakota, relating to the  
3 utilization of English as the official language.

4 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA, THE HOUSE  
5 OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN:

6 Section 1. That at the next general election held in the state, the following amendment to  
7 Article VI of the Constitution of the State of South Dakota, as set forth in section 2 of this Joint  
8 Resolution, which is hereby agreed to, shall be submitted to the electors of the state for  
9 approval.

10 Section 2. That Article VI of the Constitution of the State of South Dakota, be amended by  
11 adding a NEW SECTION to read as follows:

12 § 28. The English language is the official language of the state of South Dakota. The  
13 Legislature may enact no statute, no state agency may promulgate any rule, and no governmental



1 subdivision may pass any ordinance, which requires the use of any language other than English.  
2 No provision of this section may be construed to conflict with the Constitution or statutes  
3 of the United States. No provision of this section may be construed to restrict the right of any  
4 tribal government to utilize or encourage the use of the Lakota, Nakota, and Dakota languages.  
5 No provision of this section may be construed to prevent or discourage the voluntary usage by  
6 anyone of any language other than English.