Zero Star Representative passes a bill with no opposition!

ECU-501

What does this Bill do?

House Bill No. ECU-501, written by Representative Emily Rosenberg, is an act relating to voting accessibility in Oklahoma. To get as many voters as possible the registration and actual voting ballot needs to be accessible for everyone qualified to vote. ECU-501 is known as the "Non-English Speaker Voter Accessibility (NESVA)" Act of 2023.

The goal of this bill is to open the accessibility of voting to every citizen. There are citizens of the United States that live in Oklahoma who either cannot speak English, or cannot understand it well enough to fully comprehend the ballot. With this bill in place any Oklahoma county with a population of over 5% of a non-English language will have their ballot translated to that specific language and vote through the mail-in ballot process, at their request.

Oklahoma County: 2017 Data

- 17% (123,654) of people speak a language other than English
- 12.9% (94,052) of people spoke solely Spanish

Oklahoma County: 2009-2013 Date

- Population 5 years and older
- 12.7% of people spoke spoke Spanish at home
- 6.3% of people who spoke Spanish at home, spoke English "less than very well"

Just because some people speak English "very well" does not mean that they can read and write in the language very well.

A little about the Author

Representative Emily Rosenberg is a zero star house member. This means that Fall 2023 is her first year attending Oklahoma Intercollegiate Legislation, and her first year presenting a bill. While she admits being very nervous about presenting a bill her first year she is so happy with the outcome.

Representative Rosenberg said, "When I found out I was going to present my bill, I was so nervous! But after seeing how helpful and supportive everyone was, it definitely made me feel better. I felt honored after receiving the unanimous vote, and it gave me a lot of encouragement for the rest of the upcoming week. This has been a great experience so far."