

April 4, 2001

H 973. FUNDS FOR INTERPRETERS IN LOCAL HEALTH DEPTS. TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS FOR INTERPRETER SERVICES IN LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENTS IN COUNTIES WITH A SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER OF SPANISH-SPEAKING RESIDENTS. Appropriates \$3,000,000 for 2001-2002 and \$3,200,000 for 2002-2003 from General Fund to DHHS, Div'n of Public Health, as title indicates. Directs that funds are to be used to provide professional interpreters in local health departments in counties with medium, high, or very high population densities of Spanish-speaking residents, using a ratio recommended by the State Health Director's Committee on Linguistic Services. Permits the Dep't to use up to \$500,000 of the 2001-2002 appropriation and up to \$700,000 of the 2002-2003 appropriation to plan, implement, and maintain a program that provides incentives to local health departments to recruit, select, and hire bilingual staff. Effective July 1, 2001.

Intro. by Alexander.

Ref. to Appropriations	APPROP
------------------------	--------