

Proposed Resolution for Tennessee Drivers License in English Only

WHEREAS: TN Code Annotated establishes and governs Application, Examination, and Issuance of Drivers Licenses, and

WHEREAS: TCA Title 55, Chapter 50, Part 3, provides that applicants for a driver license must be examined and administered a written examination, and

WHEREAS: The Department of Safety has printed all manuals and all written tests in English, and

WHEREAS: The Tennessee Immigrant and Refugee Rights Coalition has proposed and seeks legislation to require all written examinations and written tests be printed in English, and

WHEREAS: There are no road signs between East and West Tennessee other than in English, and

WHEREAS: There are 52 languages spoken in Metro Nashville, and

WHEREAS: It would appear discriminatory by offering drivers tests in Spanish and English only, Japanese and Korean notwithstanding, and

WHEREAS: A driver in order to function safely on a roadway must be able to read road signs, road maps, and follow directions, and

WHEREAS: A driver in order to function safely must be able to communicate with other drivers as well as enforcement officials, and

WHEREAS: The cost to revise and reprint such materials in Spanish would be cost-prohibitive especially during the current financial crisis and efforts to downsize government and reduce budgets, and now therefore be it

RESOLVED, That proposed legislation such as HB0454/SB0010 (Butt/Ketron, co-sponsors), as summarized herein: "Drivers Licenses - as introduced, requires that all written examinations for a drivers license or intermediate license be in English - Amends TCA Title 55, Chapter 30, Part 3: - and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the Tennessee Republican Party give full and strong support to passage of this legislation.