Language Act

Passed 21 February 1995
(RT I 1995, 23, 334),
entered into force 1 April 1995,
amended by the following Acts: 08.02.2007 entered into force 01.03.2007, in the part of subsection 5 (4) 01.07.2008 - RT I 2007, 17, 82
15.12.2004 entered into force 31.03.2005 - RT I 2005, 1, 1;
10.12.2003 entered into force 01.01.2004 - RT I 2003, 82, 551;
16.10.2002 entered into force 01.01.2003 - RT I 2002, 90, 521;
19.06.2002 entered into force 01.09.2002 - RT I 2002, 63, 387;
05.06.2002 entered into force 28.06.2002 - RT I 2002, 53, 337;
17.01.2002 entered into force 01.02.2002 - RT I 2002, 9, 47;
14.11.2001 entered into force 01.02.2002 - RT I 2001, 93, 565;
06.06.2001 entered into force 01.01.2002 - RT I 2001, 58, 354;
14.06.2000 entered into force 01.07.2000 - RT I 2000, 51, 326;
09.02.99 entered into force 01.07.99 - RT I 1999, 16, 275;
15.12.98 entered into force 17.01.99 - RT I 1999, 1, 1;
10.09.97 entered into force 04.10.97 - RT I 1997, 69, 1110;
28.05.96 entered into force 08.06.96 - RT I 1996, 40, 773;
16.05.96 entered into force 08.06.96 - RT I 1996, 37, 739.

Chapter 1
General Provisions

§ 1. Status of Estonian language
(1) The official language of Estonia is Estonian.
(2) For the purposes of this Act, the basis for the official use of Estonian is the Estonian Literary Standard pursuant to the procedure established by the Government of the Republic.

(3) Estonian sign language is an independent language and signed Estonian language is a mode of the Estonian language.
(4) The state shall promote the use and development of the Estonian language, Estonian sign language and signed Estonian language.

(8.02.07 entered into force 1.03.07 - RT I 2007, 17, 82)

§ 2. Foreign language

(1) For the purposes of this Act, any language other than Estonian and Estonian sign language is a foreign language.

(8.02.07 entered into force 1.03.07 - RT I 2007, 17, 82)

(2) A language of a national minority is a foreign language which Estonian citizens who belong to a national minority have historically used as their mother tongue in Estonia.

(3) The measures to support foreign languages shall not damage Estonian.

(8.02.07 entered into force 1.03.07 - RT I 2007, 17, 82)

§ 2¹. Scope of application of Act

(1) This Act regulates the requirements for proficiency in the Estonian language and the use of Estonian, Estonian sign language and foreign languages, and the exercise of supervision over compliance with the requirements of this Act and liability for the violation of the requirements of the Language Act.

(2) The use of Estonian by companies, non-profit associations and foundations, by employees thereof and by sole proprietors is regulated if it is in the public interest, which, for the purposes of this Act, means public safety, public order, general government, education, health, consumer protection and occupational safety. The establishment of requirements concerning proficiency in and use of Estonian shall be justified and in proportion to the objective being sought and shall not distort the nature of the rights which are restricted.

(3) The provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act apply to the administrative proceedings prescribed in this Act, taking account of the specifications provided for in this Act.
§ 3. Language of public administration
(1) The language of public administration in state agencies, local governments and agencies thereof (hereinafter local governments) and the language of service and command in the Estonian Defence Forces shall be Estonian. Exceptions are provided for in Chapters 2, 3 and 4 of this Act.
(2) The use of languages in pre-trial proceedings and judicial proceedings is provided for in the corresponding Acts.

§ 4. Right to use Estonian language
(1) Everyone has the right to access public administration and to communicate in Estonian in state agencies, local governments, bureaus of notaries, bailiffs and certified interpreters and translators, cultural autonomy bodies and institutions, companies, non-profit associations and foundations.
(14.11.2001 entered into force 01.02.2002 - RT I 2001, 93, 565)

(1) The right of deaf and hearing impaired persons to communicate in Estonian sign language and signed Estonian shall be ensured by providing translation services pursuant to the provisions provided by legislation.

(8.02.07 entered into force 1.03.07 - RT I 2007, 17, 82)
(2) All employees of agencies, enterprises and organisations shall be provided with work-related information in Estonian, unless otherwise provided by law.

(09.02.99 entered into force 01.07.99 - RT I 1999, 16, 275)
(8.02.07 entered into force 1.03.07 - RT I 2007, 17, 82)

§ 5. Requirements for proficiency in and use of Estonian language
(09.02.99 entered into force 01.07.99 - RT I 1999, 16, 275)

(1) (Repealed - 15.12.98 entered into force 17.01.99 - RT I 1999, 1, 1)
(2) Public servants and employees of state agencies administered by government agencies and of local government agencies, and employees of legal persons in public law and agencies thereof, notaries, bailiffs and certified interpreters and translators
and the employees of their bureaus must be able to understand and shall use Estonian
at the level which is necessary to perform their service or employment duties.
(14.11.2001 entered into force 01.02.2002 - RT I 2001, 93, 565)

(3) The requirement for employees of companies, non-profit associations and
foundations and for sole proprietors to be proficient in Estonian to the level which is
necessary to perform their employment duties shall be applied if it is justified in the
public interest as specified in subsection 2 of this Act.
(14.06.2000 entered into force 01.07.2000 - RT I 2000, 51, 326)

(4) The mandatory levels of language proficiency for the persons specified in
subsections (2) and (3) of this section shall be established based on the language
proficiency levels defined by the Council of Europe reference document for the
European Language Portfolio.
(8.02.07 entered into force 1.07.08 - RT I 2007, 17, 82)

(5) The requirements for proficiency in and use of the Estonian language for
public servants, employees and sole proprietors shall be established by a Regulation
of the Government of the Republic.
(8.02.07 entered into force 1.03.07 - RT I 2007, 17, 82)

(6) The requirements for proficiency in the Estonian language do not apply to
persons who work in Estonia temporarily as foreign experts or foreign specialists.
(14.06.2000 entered into force 01.07.2000 - RT I 2000, 51, 326)

§ 5. Estonian language proficiency examination

(1) Proficiency in the Estonian language is assessed by Estonian language
proficiency examinations.

(2) The Minister of Education and Research shall approve the list of persons
conducting proficiency examinations and evaluating the results thereof by a directive.

(3) The Minister of Education and Research shall appoint the agency to organise
proficiency examinations and establish the procedure for conducting proficiency
examinations by a regulation.

(4) If an examinee is not satisfied with the result of the proficiency examinations,
he or she has the right, within thirty days after being communicated the examination
result, to file a challenge with the Ministry of Education and Research for the review of his or her examination result.

(5) For hearing challenges filed against the proficiency examination results, a proficiency examinations challenge committee shall be formed whose membership shall be approved by a directive of the Minister of Education and Research.

(6) The challenge committee shall review a filed challenge within thirty days after receipt thereof and pass one of the following resolutions:

1) to dismiss the challenge;

2) to issue a precept to the person evaluating the proficiency examination to review the examination paper;

3) to satisfy the challenge and where necessary, issue a precept to the head of the agency organising the proficiency examinations to issue a certificate of proficiency in the Estonian language.

(7) The conditions for combining final examinations in the Estonian language at foreign language basic or upper secondary schools and Estonian language proficiency examinations shall be established by the Minister of Education and Research. The conditions for combining Estonian language examinations for applicants for citizenship and Estonian language proficiency examinations shall be established by the Government of the Republic.

(8) The conditions for combining state examinations in the Estonian language and Estonian language proficiency examinations for graduates of groups studying in other languages who acquire secondary vocational education on the basis of basic education shall be established by the Minister of Education and Research.

(9) Persons who have acquired education in Estonian on at least one of the following levels need not pass the Estonian language proficiency examination:

1) basic education;

2) general secondary education;
3) secondary vocational education based on basic education;

4) vocational secondary education based on basic education;

5) higher education.

(10) The head of the agency organising proficiency examinations shall issue a certificate of proficiency in the Estonian language, whose format and procedure for issue shall be established by a regulation of the Minister of Education and Research, to a person who passes the Estonian language proficiency examination.

(11) In order to keep record of and to conduct supervision over issued certificates of proficiency in the Estonian language, the certificates of proficiency in the Estonian language shall be entered in a state register which shall be founded and whose statutes shall be approved by the Government of the Republic based on the proposal of the Minister of Education and Research.

(8.02.07 entered into force 1.03.07 - RT I 2007, 17, 82)

§ 5. Referring persons for Estonian language proficiency examination and revocation of certificates of proficiency in the Estonian language

(1) If, in the course of supervision, an official conducting state supervision (hereinafter language official) has reasonable doubts that the language proficiency of a person does not conform to the requirements provided by legislation, the person shall be referred, by a precept of the language official, to take the Estonian language proficiency examination.

(2) In setting the term for compliance with the precept specified in subsection (1) of this section, the time needed to acquire language proficiency at the required level shall be taken into account. A person who passes the Estonian language examination at the required level within the term set by the precept has the right to apply for compensation of the language learning expenses to the extent of up to 100 per cent of the fee for the study service paid for his or her studies of the Estonian language.
(3) The language learning expenses specified in subsection (2) of this section shall be compensated to the extent of the limit values provided by the regulation of the Government of the Republic established on the basis if subsection 81 (1) of the Citizenship Act.

(4) The head of the agency organising proficiency examinations shall revoke a certificate of proficiency if a person has not passed the proficiency examination corresponding to at least the level specified in the certificate of proficiency within the term set by the precept of the language official. The decision to revoke a certificate of proficiency shall be made within six months after the expiry of the term set by the precept.

(5) The head of the agency organising proficiency examinations or a person authorised by the head of such agency shall inform the person of the revocation of the certificate of proficiency in writing by post by a registered letter or against a signature.

(6) The head of the agency organising proficiency examinations shall not make a decision to revoke a certificate of proficiency earlier than thirty days after sending the notice specified in subsection (5) of this section.

(8.02.07 entered into force 1.03.07 - RT I 2007, 17, 82)

§ 6. Acquiring education in Estonian and in foreign languages
State agencies and local governments shall ensure that opportunities exist to acquire education in Estonian in all educational institutions belonging thereto and to acquire education in foreign languages, pursuant to the procedure prescribed by law.

1. Chapter 1

State Supervision

§ 6. State supervisory authority
Language Act

(1) State supervision over conformity with the requirements provided for in this Act and legislation established on the basis thereof shall be exercised by the Language Inspectorate (hereinafter the Inspectorate).

(2) The priorities for state supervision for each year shall be established by a regulation of the Minister of Education and Research not later than by 1 September of the previous year.

§ 6. Competence of Inspectorate and rights and duties of officials conducting state supervision

(1) The Inspectorate is competent to check the use of the Estonian language and foreign languages, and compliance with the requirements of proficiency in the Estonian language and the use of Estonian language in the areas provided by law and based on law.

(2) A language official has the right to check:

1) the compliance of official language use to the Estonian Literary Standard;

2) compliance with the requirements set for the language of public administration of state agencies and local governments upon holding of sessions, processing of documents and communicating with persons;

3) establishment of language proficiency requirements for public servants, employees and sole proprietors;

4) use of foreign languages in professional communication and forwarding of information;

5) the knowledge of the Estonian language of public servants, employees and sole proprietors, and to refer the public servants and employees whose knowledge of Estonian does not conform to the requirements to take the Estonian language proficiency examination.
(3) In order to perform its duties, a language official has the right to:

1) check, unhindered, compliance with the requirements of this Act and other legislation regulating the knowledge and use of language;

2) obtain information necessary for supervision, to examine documents relevant to supervision and copies thereof, and to obtain copies and extracts thereof;

3) make a proposal to the head of the agency organising proficiency examinations to revoke the certificate of proficiency of a public servant, employee or sole proprietor in the case specified in subsection 52 (4) of this Act;

4) make a proposal to an employer to terminate a contract of employment with an employee or to make a proposal to a person with the right to appoint public servants to office to release a public servant from office if the employee or public servant does not know Estonian at the required level;

5) issue precepts to state agencies, local government agencies, agencies administered by state agencies or local government agencies, companies, non-profit associations, foundations and to their officials and employees for the termination of the violation of the requirements provided by this Act and legislation established on the basis thereof, and for prevention of further violations.

(4) Language officials are required to present identification for the performance of their duties.

(5) Language officials are required to maintain the commercial and business secrets and the confidentiality of restricted data made known to them in the course of their official duties unless the disclosure of such information is prescribed by law.

§ 6. Precepts and decisions

(1) A precept shall set out:

1) the name of the person to whom the precept is addressed;
2) a descriptions of the facts of the violation;

3) a demand to perform acts necessary to terminate the violation;

4) the legal basis for the issue of the precept;

5) the date of issue of the precept;

6) the term for compliance with the precept;

7) the name, office and signature of the language official who issued the precept;

8) the term and procedure for contesting the precept;

9) a caution concerning the possibility of application of the measures provided in §§ 26\textsuperscript{1}–26\textsuperscript{6} of this Act and the penalty payment provided for in the Substitutive Enforcement and Penalty Payment Act.

(2) In order to ensure compliance with a precept, the supervisory authority may impose a penalty payment pursuant to the procedure provided for in the Substitutive Enforcement and Penalty Payment Act. The upper limit for a penalty payment is 10 000 kroons.

(8.02.07 entered into force 1.03.07 - RT I 2007, 17, 82)

Chapter 2
Use of Foreign Languages in State Agencies and Local Governments

§ 7. Requirements for proficiency in and use of Estonian language for public servants and employees

In local governments where besides Estonian the language of a national minority is the internal working language, public servants and employees shall be proficient in Estonian to the extent of the requirements for proficiency in and use of the Estonian language which are established by the Government of the Republic.

(09.02.99 entered into force 01.07.99 - RT I 1999, 16, 275)
§ 8. Access to public administration in foreign languages

(1) If an application, request or other document submitted to a state agency or local government is in a foreign language, the agency has the right to require the person who submits the document to submit the translation of the document into Estonian, except in the case provided for in § 10 of this Act.

(2) If a state agency or local government does not require promptly to submit the translation of an application, request or other document into Estonian, the document in a foreign language is deemed to be accepted by the agency.

(3) In the cases provided by law, a state agency or local government has the right to require notarisation of the translation. If the required translation is not submitted, the state agency or local government may return the document or have it translated with the consent and at the expense of the person who submitted the document.

(4) In oral communication with servants or employees of state agencies and local governments, and in a notary’s office, bailiff’s office or certified interpreter or translator’s office, by agreement of the parties, a foreign language which the servants or employees understand may be used. If no agreement is reached, communication shall take place through an interpreter and the costs shall be borne by the person who is not proficient in Estonian, unless otherwise provided by law.

(17.01.2002 entered into force 01.02.2002 - RT I 2002, 9, 47)

§ 9. Language of international communication

In international communication, state agencies and local governments and the public servants and employees thereof have the right to use a language which is suitable for both parties.

(09.02.99 entered into force 01.07.99 - RT I 1999, 16, 275)

§ 10. Right to use language of national minority

(1) In local governments where at least half of the permanent residents belong to a national minority, everyone has the right to receive answers from state agencies operating in the territory of the corresponding local government and from the corresponding local government and officials thereof in the language of the national minority as well as in Estonian.
(2) A permanent resident of a local government is a person who is an Estonian citizen, a citizen of the European Union or an alien residing in Estonia on the basis of a long-term residence permit whose permanent residence, the address details of which have been entered in the Estonian population register (hereinafter population register), is located in the corresponding rural municipality or city.

(3) The proportion of permanent residents who belong to a national minority within a local government shall be determined based on the data contained in the population register as of 1 January of the corresponding year.

(8.02.07 entered into force 1.03.07 - RT I 2007, 17, 82)

§ 11. Use of language of national minority as language of public administration
In local governments where the majority of permanent residents are non-Estonian speakers, the language of the national minority constituting the majority of the permanent residents of the local government may be used alongside Estonian as the internal working language of the local government on the proposal of the corresponding local government council and by a decision of the Government of the Republic.

§ 12. Language of correspondence
In local governments where the language of a national minority is used as the internal working language alongside Estonian, all correspondence with state agencies and other local governments shall be in Estonian.

§ 13. Language of seals, rubber stamps, letter-heads, announcements, invitations and notices
(1) In local governments where the language of a national minority is used as the internal working language alongside Estonian, seals, rubber stamps and letter-heads shall be in Estonian.

(2) In local governments specified in subsection (1) of this section, invitations, announcements and notices shall be in Estonian and the local government may append a translation into the corresponding language of the national minority.
Chapter 3
Use of Language of National Minority in Cultural Autonomy Bodies of National Minorities

§ 14. Language of cultural autonomy bodies of national minorities
(1) The cultural autonomy body of a national minority may use the language of the national minority as an internal working language.
(2) All communication of cultural autonomy bodies with state agencies and with local governments where the language of the national minority is not used as an internal working language shall take place in Estonian.

§ 15. Language of seals, letter-heads, announcements, notices and rubber stamps of cultural autonomy bodies of national minorities
(1) The seals of cultural autonomy bodies of national minorities shall be in Estonian.
(2) Official letter-heads, announcements, notices and rubber stamps shall be in Estonian and the cultural autonomy body may append a translation into the corresponding language of the national minority.

Chapter 4
Use of Languages in Other Areas

§ 16. Right of consumers to information in Estonian
Consumers of goods and services have the right to receive information and servicing in Estonian in compliance with the Consumer Protection Act.
(8.02.07 entered into force 1.03.07 - RT I 2007, 17, 82)

§ 17. Language of reporting
Agencies, companies, non-profit associations and foundations which are registered in Estonia shall report in Estonian pursuant to the procedure prescribed by Acts.
(09.02.99 entered into force 01.07.99 - RT I 1999, 16, 275)

§ 18. (Repealed - 08.02.2007 entered into force 1.03.07 - RT I 2007, 17, 82)
Chapter 5
Names and Information

§ 19. Writing of place names

The writing of place names shall be based on the provisions of the Place Names Act.

(8.02.07 entered into force 1.03.07 - RT I 2007, 17, 82)

§ 20. Spelling of personal names

Personal names shall be spelled in accordance with the provisions of the Names Act.

(15.12.2004 entered into force 31.03.2005 - RT I 2005, 1, 1)

§ 21. Seals, stamps and letter-heads of agencies, companies, non-profit associations, foundations and sole proprietors

(14.06.2000 entered into force 01.07.2000 - RT I 2000, 51, 326)

(1) (Repealed - 28.050.96 entered into force 08.06.96 - RT I 1996, 40, 773)

(2) The seals, stamps and letter-heads of agencies, companies, non-profit associations, foundations and sole proprietors which are registered in Estonia shall be in Estonian. An agency, company, non-profit association, foundation or sole proprietor may append a translation into a foreign language to an Estonian text.

(14.06.2000 entered into force 01.07.2000 - RT I 2000, 51, 326)

§ 22. International form of names

(1) The international form of Estonian place names, names of citizens, things, companies, agencies, non-profit associations and foundations in the Latin alphabet shall be identical to the form used in Estonia.

(09.02.99 entered into force 01.07.99 - RT I 1999, 16, 275)

(2) If the names provided in subsection (1) of this section are written in a language which uses another alphabet, the transcription rules established in the Literary Standards shall be applied.

§ 23. Language of information
(1) Public signs, signposts, announcements, notices and advertisements shall be in Estonian, except in the cases provided for in §§ 13 and 15 of this Act.

(2) A regional variety or translation into a foreign language may be added to the Estonian text of public information however, the text in the Estonian language shall have precedence and must not be less visible than the regional variety or translation into a foreign language.

(3) In public events, the organiser of such events shall ensure the translation of essential information presented in foreign languages into Estonian.

(8.02.07 entered into force 1.03.07 - RT I 2007, 17, 82)

§ 24. Language of state registration plates
The letter combinations used on state registration plates shall contain only Latin letters.

§ 25. Translation of foreign language text of audiovisual works, television and radio programmes and advertisements
(1) Upon broadcasting (including transmission by television stations or cable networks) of audiovisual works (including programmes and advertisements), foreign language text shall be accompanied by an adequate translation into Estonian.

(2) A translation into Estonian is not required for programmes which are immediately retransmitted or language learning programmes or in the case of the newsreader’s text of originally produced foreign language news programmes and of originally produced live foreign language programmes.

(3) A translation into Estonian is not required in the case of radio programmes which are aimed at a foreign language audience.

(4) The volume of foreign language news programmes and live foreign language programmes without translations into Estonian specified in subsection (2) of this section shall not exceed 10 per cent of the volume of weekly original production.

(10.09.97 entered into force 04.10.97 - RT I 1997, 69, 1110)

§ 26. Use of “Riigikogu” as name of Estonian legislative body
(1) The word “Riigikogu” as the name of the Estonian legislative body is not subject to translation.

(2) The word “Riigikogu” transcribed into foreign languages which use the Latin alphabet identically to Estonian and into languages which use other alphabets shall be written in compliance with the transcription rules established in the Literary Standards.

(3) Instead of or as an attribute to the word “Riigikogu” as the name of the Estonian legislative body, the word “parlament” [parliament] in Estonian and foreign language equivalents thereof may be used as an unofficial name.

Chapter 5
(19.06.2002 entered into force 01.09.2002 - RT I 2002, 63, 387)

Liability
(19.06.2002 entered into force 01.09.2002 - RT I 2002, 63, 387)

§ 26. Violation of requirements for use of Estonian language
(1) Violation of the requirements for use of the Estonian language in public administration, correspondence, reporting, communication, or forwarding of work-related information to employees in state agencies, legal persons in public law and agencies thereof, local governments or agencies administered thereby, companies, non-profit associations or foundations, and violation of the requirements for use of the Estonian language on seals, rubber stamps or letter-heads is punishable by a fine of up to 200 fine units.

(2) The same act, if committed at least twice, is punishable by a fine of up to 300 fine units.

(3) The same act, if committed by a legal person, is punishable by a fine of up to 40 000 kroons.
(19.06.2002 entered into force 01.09.2002 - RT I 2002, 63, 387)

§ 262. Violation of language requirements in media
(1) The absence of an Estonian translation upon the transmission of foreign language audiovisual works, foreign language programmes of radio or television stations or international events directed at the public is punishable by a fine of up to 300 fine units.
(2) The same act, if committed by a legal person, is punishable by a fine of up to 50 000 kroons.
(19.06.2002 entered into force 01.09.2002 - RT I 2002, 63, 387)

§ 26³. Violation of language requirements in Estonian Defence Forces
Violation of the language requirements in the Estonian Defence Forces is punishable by a fine of up to 100 fine units.
(19.06.2002 entered into force 01.09.2002 - RT I 2002, 63, 387)

§ 26⁴. Violation of requirements for language proficiency
Failure by an employer to apply the requirements for language proficiency in respect of an employee and violation of the requirements for language proficiency by a public servant or employee is punishable by a fine of up to 200 fine units.
(19.06.2002 entered into force 01.09.2002 - RT I 2002, 63, 387)

§ 26⁵. Violation requirements for use of Estonian language and Estonian Literary Standard
(1) Violation of the requirements for use of the Estonian language on public signs and signposts and in announcements, notices and advertisements and violation of the Estonian Literary Standard in official language use or the transcription of names is punishable by a fine of up to 200 fine units.
(2) The same act, if committed by a legal person, is punishable by a fine of up to 20 000 kroons.
(19.06.2002 entered into force 01.09.2002 - RT I 2002, 63, 387)

§ 26⁶. Violation of requirements for use of Estonian language upon servicing of consumers
(1) Violation of the requirements for use of the Estonian language upon servicing a consumer and the absence of labelling or instructions for use in Estonian on goods is punishable by a fine of up to 200 fine units.
(2) The same act, if committed by a legal person, is punishable by a fine of up to 40 000 kroons.
(19.06.2002 entered into force 01.09.2002 - RT I 2002, 63, 387)
§ 26. Proceedings
(2) The Language Inspectorate is the extra-judicial body which conducts proceedings in matters of misdemeanours provided for in §§ 26¹–26⁶ of this Act.
(19.06.2002 entered into force 01.09.2002 - RT I 2002, 63, 387)

Chapter 6
Final Provisions

§ 27. (Repealed - 08.02.2007 entered into force 1.03.07 - RT I 2007, 17, 82)

§ 28. (Repealed - 08.02.2007 entered into force 1.03.07 - RT I 2007, 17, 82)

§ 28¹. (Repealed - 10.12.2003 entered into force 01.01.2004 - RT I 2003, 82, 551)

§ 28². (Repealed - 08.02.2007 entered into force 1.03.07 - RT I 2007, 17, 82)

§ 28³. National programme for integration of Russian language schools into Estonian education system

As of the year 2007, the Government of the Republic shall launch a national programme for the integration of Russian language schools, including pre-school child care institutions, into the Estonian education system. Such programme shall also provide for teacher training.

(8.02.07 entered into force 1.03.07 - RT I 2007, 17, 82)

§ 29. Amendment of legislation
(1) The Estonian SSR Language Act (ENSV Teataja³ 1989, 4, 60; RT I 1993, 20, 352; 1994, 49, 804) is repealed.
Language Act

53, 336; 58, 362; 61, 375; 63, 387; 64, 390; 393; 82, 480; 96, 565; 99, 579; 2003, 1, 1; 4, 22; 23, 141; 88, 588) is amended as follows:

1) subsection 23 (8) is amended and worded as follows:
"(8) Council regulations and resolutions and minutes of council sessions shall be prepared and published in Estonian. In local governments where the majority of permanent residents are non-Estonian speakers, minutes of council sessions may be prepared in the language of the national minority constituting the majority of the permanent residents of the local government; however, a translation into Estonian shall be appended thereto.";

2) subsection 41 (2) is amended and worded as follows:
"(2) The use of foreign languages including languages of national minorities shall be provided for in the Language Act."

§ 30. Entry into force of Act
This Act enters into force on 1 April 1995.

1 RT = Riigi Teataja = State Gazette
2 Riigikogu = the parliament of Estonia
3 ENSV Teataja = ESSR Gazette