

HOUSE BILL 1501

O3, D5

0lr3450
CF SB 68

By: **Delegate Rice**

Introduced and read first time: March 3, 2010

Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **State Government – Human Relations – Closed–Captioning Activation**
3 **Required**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring activation of closed captioning on certain television
5 receivers in public areas in places of public accommodation during regular
6 hours; providing certain exceptions; defining certain terms; and generally
7 relating to the activation of closed captioning on television receivers in places of
8 public accommodation.

9 BY adding to
10 Article – State Government
11 Section 20–306
12 Annotated Code of Maryland
13 (2009 Replacement Volume)

14 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
15 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

16 **Article – State Government**

17 **20–306.**

18 (A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE
19 MEANINGS INDICATED.

20 (2) “CLOSED CAPTIONING” MEANS A TRANSCRIPT OR DIALOG OF
21 THE AUDIO PORTION OF A TELEVISION PROGRAM THAT IS DISPLAYED ON A
22 TELEVISION RECEIVER SCREEN WHEN THE USER ACTIVATES THE FEATURE.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 **(3) “CLOSED–CAPTIONING TELEVISION RECEIVER” MEANS A**
2 **TELEVISION THAT HAS A BUILT–IN DECODER TO DISPLAY CLOSED CAPTIONING.**

3 **(4) “PUBLIC AREA” MEANS A PART OF A PLACE OF PUBLIC**
4 **ACCOMMODATION THAT IS OPEN TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC.**

5 **(5) “REGULAR HOURS” MEANS THE HOURS OF ANY DAY IN WHICH**
6 **A PLACE OF PUBLIC ACCOMMODATION IS OPEN TO MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL**
7 **PUBLIC.**

8 **(B) A PLACE OF PUBLIC ACCOMMODATION MAY NOT FAIL TO KEEP**
9 **CLOSED CAPTIONING ACTIVATED ON ANY CLOSED–CAPTIONING TELEVISION**
10 **RECEIVER THAT IS IN USE DURING REGULAR HOURS IN ANY PUBLIC AREA.**

11 **(C) THIS SECTION DOES NOT REQUIRE A PLACE OF PUBLIC**
12 **ACCOMMODATION TO MAKE CLOSED CAPTIONING AVAILABLE IN A PUBLIC AREA**
13 **OF THE PLACE OF PUBLIC ACCOMMODATION IF:**

14 **(1) NO TELEVISION RECEIVER OF ANY KIND IS AVAILABLE IN THE**
15 **PUBLIC AREA; OR**

16 **(2) THE ONLY PUBLIC TELEVISION RECEIVER AVAILABLE IN THE**
17 **PUBLIC AREA IS NOT A CLOSED–CAPTIONING TELEVISION RECEIVER.**

18 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
19 October 1, 2010.