

DANIEL L. COX  
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Judiciary Committee

*Subcommittees*

Family Law

Public Safety



The Maryland House of Delegates  
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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

March 10, 2020

HB 1523 Human Relations - Public Accommodations - Captioning in Movie Theaters  
(Open Captioning Equality Act of 2020)

Dear Chair Davis, Vice-Chair Dumais and Economic Matters Committee members:

Thank you for the opportunity to present the Open Captioning Equality Act of 2020. After a conversation with a hearing impaired constituent, who was frustrated at the lack of the availability of first run moving showings during peak times with appropriate open captioned configuration, I had this piece of legislation drafted to address the issue. It is my understanding that open captioned movie offerings would be both cost efficient and less cumbersome to arrange for the movie theater operators and provide more enjoyable entertainment for the deaf community and their families and friends. To that end and in an endeavor to employ the latest technologies in a manner to ensure that the deaf can enjoy a movie at near the same level as those of us blessed with unimpaired hearing, I hope you join me in support of this bill.

This bill requires a place of public accommodation that owns, leases, operates, or controls a movie theater to offer fully operational and well-maintained closed captioning technology for each compatible motion picture. A place of public accommodation with a movie theater in two or more locations must provide open captioning during at least two showings per week of each compatible motion picture.

I request a favorable report on HB 1523.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dan Cox".

Dan Cox