



**HB 1363: Places of Public Accommodation - Captioning for Motion Picture Houses -
Alterations**

Testimony of the Maryland Independent Living Network

SUPPORT – Favorable

House Economic Matters Committee, March 4, 2025

The Maryland Independent Living Network is a coalition of the Maryland Statewide Independent Living Council and the seven Maryland-based Centers for Independent Living (CIL). CILs are created by federal law. CILs work to enhance the civil rights and quality of services for people with disabilities. There are seven CILs located throughout Maryland, operated by and for people with disabilities. CILs provide Information and Referral, Advocacy, Peer Support, Independent Living Skills training, and Transition Services to individuals with disabilities in their communities.

House Bill 1363 reduces from 8 to 4 the number of screens a movie theater has that is subject to the requirement to provide closed captioning for at least two screenings for each motion picture it shows each week. HB 1363 also requires movie theaters to provide monthly reports on the number of showings with closed captioning.

The Maryland Independent Living Network strongly **supports** HB 1363 and requests a favorable report.

In 2024, HB 426/SB 92, Places of Public Accommodation - Motion Picture Houses – Captioning, were enacted and established the requirement that movie theaters with at least 8 screens provide closed captioning for at least two screenings for each motion picture it shows each week. This new law increased accessibility in the screening of movies in Maryland.

HB 1363 would increase the number of movie theaters that are subject to this requirement by requiring movie theaters with at least 4 screens meet the requirement established by HB 426/SB 92 of 2024.

As a result, HB 1363 increases the accessibility of movie screenings. Any increase in accessibility is good for everyone.

The Maryland Independent Living Network strongly **supports** HB 1363 and requests a favorable report.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

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