



MDSC

Maryland Deaf Senior Citizens

www.mddeafseniors.org

2024-2025

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February 28, 2025

House Bill 1363
Places of Public Accommodation-Captioning for Motion Pictures
Houses-Alterations
Economic Matters Committee
State Capitol
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Economic Matters Committee,

On behalf of the Maryland Deaf Senior Citizens, Inc, we respectfully urge your support for House Bill 1363, the Open Captioning Bill, sponsored by Delegate Harry Bhandari. This bill would require all motion picture houses to offer open captioning for each screening at movie theatres that hold four or more screenings of a film.

Currently Maryland law mandates open captioning for movie theatres with eight or more screenings, limiting access for members of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing community. Mandating movie theatres with four or more screenings will significantly expand accessibility, particularly in smaller and rural countries outside the metropolitan areas.

This bill presents a win-win situation for both the moviegoers and theatres alike. It ensures inclusivity and provides greater access to entertainment for everyone.

Maryland Deaf Senior Citizens, Inc respectfully request a favorable report on HB1363.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

With warm regards,

Janet Weinstock
Janet Weinstock
MDSC President

Lisa Skaggs
Lisa Skaggs
MDSC Secretary

Maryland Deaf Senior Citizens, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt nonprofit organization.
All contributions are tax deductible to the extent of the law.