

**Wes Moore**  
*Governor*

**Aruna Miller**  
*Lt. Governor*



**Usherla DeBerry**  
*Director*

**HB 1363 MOTION PICTURE HOUSES - CAPTIONING - ALTERATIONS**

**MARYLAND GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF THE DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING  
DIRECTOR USHERLA DEBERRY, Ed.S.**

**SENATE JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS COMMITTEE**

**Senator William C. Smith Jr., Chair  
Senator Jeff Waldstreicher, Vice Chair  
April 1, 2025**

Good Afternoon, Chair and Distinguished members of the committee. I am Director Usherla DeBerry of the Governor's Office of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. I am honored to be here to provide testimony in support of the bill before you. As a representative of an office that supports the Deaf and Hard of Hearing community, I believe this bill is a significant step in ensuring equitable access to all media for all Maryland residents, especially those in the Deaf community and Hard of Hearing.

The proposed changes are an important adjustment that will expand access. By reducing the number of screens needed to trigger the mandatory movie captioning, smaller theaters can meet the threshold making more theaters accessible. It will also create a more manageable requirement for larger theaters.

In conclusion, I urge the committee to support this bill for the benefit of all Marylanders, ensuring that movie theaters are accessible to the Deaf and Hard of Hearing community. The ability to enjoy films and other media is an experience that should be a basic right for all. This bill ensures that everyone can enjoy these experiences equally.

Thank you,

Usherla DeBerry