

By: Representative C. Fite

## HOUSE RESOLUTION

TO URGE THE ACTIVATION OF CLOSED CAPTIONING ON  
TELEVISION MONITORS IN PUBLIC VENUES.

### Subtitle

TO URGE THE ACTIVATION OF CLOSED  
CAPTIONING ON TELEVISION MONITORS IN  
PUBLIC VENUES.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE 93RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

WHEREAS, in the interest of eliminating isolation and segregation and encouraging the gathering and participation of all individuals, it is sound policy to promote full and equal communication access to all; and

WHEREAS, televisions are increasingly used in venues open to the general public, including without limitation hospital waiting rooms, medical offices, medical centers, restaurants, small businesses, health clubs, social recreation facilities, airport lounges, and more; and

WHEREAS, hearing loss is a part of life for many individuals in the United States; and

WHEREAS, a 2011 study by Johns Hopkins University researchers estimated that approximately one (1) in five (5) Americans who are twelve (12) years of age or older have some type of hearing loss in one (1) or both ears that affects their ability to communicate and receive information; and



WHEREAS, hearing loss is one of the most common disabilities in the United States; and

WHEREAS, closed captioning displays the audio portion of a television program in text form on the television screen, providing access to news, entertainment, and information for individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Communications Commission requires video programming shown on television or over the internet after being shown on television to be closed captioned; and

WHEREAS, all televisions are now built to support closed captioning; and

WHEREAS, activating closed captioning on television monitors located in public venues promotes full communication access for people who are deaf or hard of hearing; improves comprehension for viewers who are learning English as a second language; provides access to news and information for everyone in what may be a noisy environment; improves comprehension of on-screen dialogue that may be spoken very quickly or mumbled, spoken in another dialect, or muffled by background noise; and assures full information is shared with all citizens during emergencies,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

THAT the House of Representatives urge the activation of closed captioning on television monitors located in public venues during hours when the venue is open to the general public and the monitors are in use.