

ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION No. 210

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED DECEMBER 16, 2020

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman NICHOLAS CHIARAVALLOTI

District 31 (Hudson)

Assemblywoman VALERIE VAINIERI HUTTLE

District 37 (Bergen)

SYNOPSIS

Urges activation of closed captioning on television monitors located in public spaces.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 12/16/2020)

1 **AN ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION** urging any entity that operates a
2 television in a public space to display closed captioning on the
3 television monitor.
4
5 **WHEREAS**, Hearing loss is a part of life for many Americans and
6 affects people of all ages throughout the United States; and
7 **WHEREAS**, It currently ranks as one of the most common physical
8 disabilities, behind only arthritis and heart disease, with one in eight
9 people in the United States aged 12 years of age or older having
10 some hearing loss in both ears; and
11 **WHEREAS**, A loss of hearing can affect an individual's ability to
12 communicate and receive information, potentially leading to social
13 isolation and withdrawal, as well as a delayed reaction during times
14 of emergency; and
15 **WHEREAS**, These challenges tend to be amplified in public spaces,
16 where levels of accessibility for those with hearing loss vary from
17 space to space; and
18 **WHEREAS**, Televisions are increasingly used in spaces open to the
19 general public, such as hospital waiting rooms, restaurants,
20 businesses, health clubs, and airport lounges; and
21 **WHEREAS**, The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) requires
22 most video programming shown on television, and over the Internet
23 after being shown on television, to be closed captioned; and
24 **WHEREAS**, Closed captioning, as defined by the FCC, is the display of
25 the audio portion of a television program as text on the television
26 screen; and
27 **WHEREAS**, Closed captioning provides a critical link to news,
28 entertainment, and information for individuals who are deaf or
29 suffer from hearing loss; and
30 **WHEREAS**, All modern televisions built after 1993 support closed
31 captioning capabilities; and
32 **WHEREAS**, Senate Bill No. 1489, which was previously introduced in
33 February 2020, provides that televisions located in State buildings
34 shall display closed captioning for all televised programming; and
35 **WHEREAS**, The activation of closed captioning on television monitors
36 located in public spaces would promote full communication and
37 information access for individuals who are deaf or suffer from
38 hearing loss, improve comprehension and access to news and
39 information for all viewers in noisy public environments, and
40 assure televised information is accessible to all individuals in the
41 event of an emergency; and
42 **WHEREAS**, In the interest of encouraging the gathering, participation,
43 and education of all individuals, it is sound public policy to
44 promote full and equal communication and information access for
45 all; now, therefore,

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