

Senate File 2271 - Introduced

SENATE FILE 2271

BY STAED, DONAHUE, and SALMON

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to captioning requirements for motion picture
2 theaters.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

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1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. **216C.13 Captioning in motion**
2 **picture theaters.**

3 1. For purposes of this section, unless the context otherwise
4 requires:

5 a. "*Closed captioning*" means the written display of a motion
6 picture's dialogue or transcript, including but not limited to
7 nonspeech information such as music, character identities, and
8 other sounds or sound effects by means of a personal captioning
9 device that delivers captions to individual patrons.

10 b. "*Large motion picture theater company*" means any person
11 who controls, operates, owns, or leases five or more motion
12 picture theaters in this state.

13 c. "*Motion picture theater*" means an establishment in which
14 motion pictures are regularly exhibited to the public for an
15 admission charge.

16 d. "*Open captioning*" means the written, on-screen display of
17 a motion picture's dialogue and nonspeech information, including
18 but not limited to music, the identity of the character speaking,
19 or other sounds and sound effects.

20 e. "*Small motion picture theater company*" means any person
21 who controls, operates, owns, or leases between one and four
22 motion picture theaters in this state.

23 2. A motion picture theater shall provide access to fully
24 operational and well-maintained closed captioning technology for
25 each screening of a motion picture that is produced and available
26 with closed captioning as required by Tit. III of the federal
27 Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.

28 3. If a motion picture is produced with open captioning and
29 distributed to motion picture theaters, a large motion picture
30 theater company shall provide open captioning screenings of such
31 motion picture that has at least five scheduled screenings at
32 that theater, provided that the theater has digital projection
33 systems that support open captioning files. Such open captioning
34 screenings must occur within each of the following time periods:

35 a. Within each of the first two weeks of such a motion

1 picture's release, the motion picture theater shall provide at
2 least two open captioning screenings, of which at least one must
3 begin between 5:59 p.m. and 11:01 p.m. on Fridays or between
4 10:59 a.m. and 11:01 p.m. on Saturdays or Sundays.

5 b. Within each week after the first two weeks of such
6 a motion picture's release, the motion picture theater shall
7 provide at least one open captioning screening per week, which
8 must begin between 5:59 p.m. and 10:01 p.m. on Mondays, Tuesdays,
9 Wednesdays, or Thursdays; between 5:59 p.m. and 11:01 p.m. on
10 Fridays; or between 10:59 a.m. and 11:01 p.m. on Saturdays or
11 Sundays.

12 4. If a motion picture is produced with open captioning
13 and distributed to motion picture theaters, a small motion
14 picture theater company shall, at each theater that has digital
15 projection systems that support open captioning files, provide at
16 least one of the following:

17 a. An open captioning screening within eight calendar days
18 after receiving a request pursuant to subsection 6.

19 b. Open captioning consistent with the requirements for
20 motion picture theaters pursuant to subsection 3.

21 5. This section shall not prevent a motion picture theater
22 from offering more open captioning screenings than required under
23 this section.

24 6. Motion picture theaters shall provide contact information
25 on the motion picture theater's internet site for the purpose of
26 receiving and fulfilling requests for open captioning screenings.

27 7. If an open captioning screening of a motion picture
28 overlaps with one or more other open captioning screenings of
29 the same motion picture at the same motion picture theater, no
30 more than one such motion picture screening may be counted toward
31 the minimum number of screenings required by this section, except
32 where it is not practicable to avoid such overlap.

33 8. A motion picture theater shall advertise the date and time
34 of open captioning screenings in the same manner as the motion
35 picture theater advertises all other motion picture screenings

1 and indicate which screenings will include open captioning by
2 using the character symbol "OC".

3 9. A motion picture theater shall maintain documents
4 sufficient to demonstrate compliance with the requirements of
5 this section for a period of at least one year.

6 EXPLANATION

7 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
8 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

9 This bill relates to captioning requirements for motion
10 picture theaters.

11 The bill requires a motion picture theater to provide
12 access to fully operational and well-maintained closed captioning
13 technology for each screening of a motion picture that is
14 produced and available with closed captioning.

15 The bill establishes open captioning requirements for motion
16 pictures that are produced with open captioning and distributed
17 to motion picture theaters. The bill requires large motion
18 picture theater companies operating five or more motion picture
19 theaters in the state to provide a minimum number of open
20 captioning screenings at each theater with at least five
21 scheduled screenings of the motion picture, provided the theater
22 has digital projection systems that support open captioning
23 files.

24 The bill provides that if a small motion picture theater
25 company operates four or fewer motion picture theaters in the
26 state, each qualifying theater must either provide an open
27 captioning screening within eight days after receiving a request
28 for such a screening or offer open captioning consistent with the
29 requirements of large motion picture companies.

30 The bill requires motion picture theaters to provide contact
31 information on their internet sites for receiving requests for
32 open captioned screenings. The bill also requires motion picture
33 theaters to advertise open captioning screenings in the same
34 manner as other screenings. The bill requires motion picture
35 theaters to maintain documentation sufficient to demonstrate

1 compliance with the requirements of the bill for at least one
2 year.

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