

**SENATE BILL No. 257**

By Committee on Federal and State Affairs

2-15

1 AN ACT concerning places of public accommodation; relating to public  
2 areas thereof; requiring that closed captioning be enabled on certain  
3 televisions and television receivers therein.

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5 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:*

6 Section 1. (a) (1) Places of public accommodation with televisions  
7 and television receivers located in public areas shall have closed  
8 captioning enabled as the default option while such place of public  
9 accommodation is open and accessible to the public.

10 (2) The provisions of this subsection shall not apply to televisions  
11 that were manufactured prior to 1993.

12 (b) Nothing in this section shall be construed to require that all  
13 programming content be closed captioned.

14 (c) The Kansas commission for the deaf and hard of hearing shall:

15 (1) Adopt policies providing guidance on compliance with this  
16 section to be followed by any place of public accommodation. Such  
17 policies shall be made available on the commission's website and include  
18 guidance related to:

19 (A) A public area of a place of public accommodation that has  
20 multiple televisions or television receivers;

21 (B) placement of televisions to ensure patrons are within reasonable  
22 eyesight of a television with closed captioning enabled; and

23 (C) accommodating requests to turn closed captioning on or off; and

24 (2) assist local governmental entities with technical consultation and  
25 support in the development of policies and procedures when requested by  
26 such local governmental entity.

27 (d) For purposes of this section:

28 (1) "Closed captioning" means the text display on the television  
29 screen of the audio portion of a television program.

30 (2) "Television" or "television receiver" means equipment that is able  
31 to display closed captioning, including, but not limited to, a television,  
32 digital set-top-box or other technology that is capable of displaying closed  
33 captioning for television programming.

34 (3) "Public accommodation" means the same as defined in 42 U.S.C.  
35 § 12181, as in effect on July 1, 2023.

36 (4) "Public area" means any part of a place of public accommodation

1 that is open to the general public.

2 Sec. 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its

3 publication in the statute book.