

IN THE SENATE

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 102

BY HEALTH AND WELFARE COMMITTEE

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

STATING FINDINGS OF THE LEGISLATURE AND ENCOURAGING THE ACTIVATION OF CLOSED
CAPTIONING ON TELEVISION MONITORS IN PUBLIC VENUES.

Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Idaho:

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

WHEREAS, televisions are increasingly used in venues open to the general public, such as hospital waiting rooms, 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 Idaho; and

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

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

WHEREAS, closed captioning displays the audio portion of a television program as text 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 and over the internet, after being shown on television, to be closed captioned; and

WHEREAS, all modern televisions are 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 a noisy environment; improves comprehension of on-screen dialogue that is spoken very quickly, mumbled, or spoken with accents or when there is a lot of background noise; and assures full information is shared with all during times of emergencies.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the members of the First Regular Session of the Sixty-sixth Idaho Legislature, the Senate and the House of Representatives concurring therein, that the Legislature urges 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.