

2016 -- H 7979

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2016

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A N A C T

RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES - EQUAL RIGHTS OF BLIND AND DEAF PERSONS
TO PUBLIC FACILITIES

Introduced By: Representatives Handy, Nardolillo, Naughton, Ajello, and Regunberg

Date Introduced: March 23, 2016

Referred To: House Health, Education & Welfare

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 40-9.1 of the General Laws entitled "Equal Rights of Blind and
2 Deaf Persons to Public Facilities" is hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:

3 **40-9.1-7. Motion picture theater accommodation.** -- (a) A public area that owns,
4 leases, leases to, or operates a motion picture theater shall provide open movie captioning during
5 at least two (2) showings per week of each motion picture that is produced and offered with open
6 movie captioning.

7 (b) A public area that owns, leases, leases to, or operates a motion picture theatre shall
8 provide, upon request, audio description of any motion picture that is produced and offered with
9 audio description.

10 (c) A violation of this section shall be a discriminatory practice.

11 (d) This section shall apply to motion pictures that are produced and distributed with the
12 necessary auxiliary aids and services, including captioning and audio description. This section
13 shall not prohibit the showing of a motion picture that is produced and distributed without
14 captioning and audio description; provided that a public accommodation that owns, leases, leases
15 to, or operates a motion picture theater shall provide notice to the public if a motion picture
16 offered for viewing is produced and distributed without captioning or audio description.

17 (e) For the purposes of this section, "motion picture theater" means a movie theater,
18 screening room, or other venue in use primarily for the exhibition of a motion picture.

1 [\(f\) This section shall be repealed on January 1, 2019.](#)

2 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect on January 1, 2017, and shall be repealed on
3 January 1, 2019.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF

A N A C T

RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES - EQUAL RIGHTS OF BLIND AND DEAF PERSONS
TO PUBLIC FACILITIES

1 This act would require movie theaters to provide open captioning for persons who are
2 deaf or hard-of-hearing.

3 This act would take effect on January 1, 2017 and would be repealed on January 1, 2019.

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