

1 **HOUSE RESOLUTION URGING THE ACTIVATION OF**
2 **CLOSED CAPTIONING IN PUBLIC VENUES**

3 2020 GENERAL SESSION

4 STATE OF UTAH

5 **Chief Sponsor: Dan N. Johnson**

7 **LONG TITLE**

8 **General Description:**

9 This House resolution urges the activation of closed captioning on television monitors
10 located in public venues.

11 **Highlighted Provisions:**

12 This resolution:

- 13 ▶ acknowledges the many individuals in the United States who are deaf or hard of
14 hearing;
- 15 ▶ recognizes the value of closed captioning in providing important news and
16 information to individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing; and
- 17 ▶ urges the activation of closed captioning on television monitors located in public
18 venues.

19 **Special Clauses:**

20 None

22 *Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the state of Utah:*

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

26 WHEREAS, televisions are increasingly used in venues open to the general public,
27 such as hospital waiting rooms, restaurants, small businesses, health clubs, social recreation



28 facilities, airport lounges, and more;

29 WHEREAS, hearing loss is a part of life for many individuals in the United States;

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

33 WHEREAS, hearing loss is one of the most common disabilities in the United States;

34 WHEREAS, closed captioning displays the audio portion of a television program as
35 text on the television screen, providing access to news, entertainment, and information for
36 individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing;

37 WHEREAS, the Federal Communications Commission requires video programming
38 shown on television and over the internet after being shown on television to be closed
39 captioned;

40 WHEREAS, all modern televisions are built to support closed captioning; and

41 WHEREAS, activating closed captioning on television monitors located in public
42 venues:

- 43 • promotes full communication access for people who are deaf or hard of hearing;
- 44 • improves comprehension for viewers who are learning English as a second language;
- 45 • provides access to news and information for everyone in a noisy environment;
- 46 • improves comprehension of on-screen dialogue that is spoken very quickly, mumbled,
47 or with accents, or when there is a lot of background noise; and
- 48 • assures full information is shared with all during times of emergencies;

49 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the
50 state of Utah urges the activation of closed captioning on television monitors located in public
51 venues during hours when the venue is open to the general public and the monitors are in use.