

HOUSE BILL 254

P1, D5

7lr2229

By: **Delegate Angel**

Introduced and read first time: January 23, 2017

Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **State Government – Closed Captioning Activation Required Without Request**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring places of public accommodation to keep closed captioning
4 activated on certain television receivers under certain circumstances regardless of
5 whether the closed captioning was requested; and generally relating to activation of
6 closed captioning on television receivers in places of public accommodation.

7 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
8 Article – State Government
9 Section 20–306
10 Annotated Code of Maryland
11 (2014 Replacement Volume and 2016 Supplement)

12 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
13 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

14 **Article – State Government**

15 20–306.

16 (a) (1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.

17 (2) “Closed captioning” means a transcript or dialog of the audio portion of
18 a television program that is displayed on a television receiver screen when the user
19 activates the feature.

20 (3) “Closed–captioning television receiver” means a receiver of television
21 programming that has the ability to display closed captioning, including a television, digital
22 set top box, and any other technology capable of displaying closed captioning.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (4) “Public area” means a part of a place of public accommodation that is
2 open to the general public.

3 (5) “Regular hours” means the hours of any day in which a place of public
4 accommodation is open to members of the general public.

5 (b) [On request, a] A place of public accommodation may not fail to keep closed
6 captioning activated on any closed-captioning television receiver that is in use during
7 regular hours in any public area.

8 (c) This section does not require a place of public accommodation to make closed
9 captioning available in a public area of the place of public accommodation if:

10 (1) no television receiver of any kind is available in the public area; or

11 (2) the only public television receiver available in the public area is not a
12 closed-captioning television receiver.

13 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
14 October 1, 2017.