

2009 -- H 5638

LC01944

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2009

A N A C T

RELATING TO PUBLIC PROPERTY AND WORKS

Introduced By: Representatives Naughton, Jacquard, and Handy

Date Introduced: February 25, 2009

Referred To: House Finance

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Title 37 of the General Laws entitled "PUBLIC PROPERTY AND
2 WORKS" is hereby amended by adding thereto the following chapter:

3 CHAPTER 24

4 ACCESS TO AUDIO CLIPS

5 **37-24-1. Definitions.** – As used in this chapter:

6 (1) "Captions" shall mean the audio portion of video programming displayed as text
7 superimposed over a video;

8 (2) "Closed captions" shall mean captions that may be turned on or off by a viewer;

9 (3) "Open captions" shall mean captions that are always viewable and cannot be turned
10 on and off by a viewer;

11 (4) "Transcript" shall mean the exact word for word in-text format with respect to what is
12 said in a video clip;

13 (5) "American sign language" shall mean the visual/gestural language used by deaf
14 people in the United States and Canada, with semantic, syntactic, morphological, and
15 phonological rules which are distinct from English; and

16 (6) "Audio" shall mean the voice message launched from an audio clip or a video clip.

17 **37-24-2. Access to clips.** – Video clips and voice recorded clips on all state and public
18 sponsored websites shall be accessible to people who have hearing impairment. The acceptance
19 of formats that are considered accessible to people with hearing impairment is as follows:

- 1 [\(1\) Open captions;](#)
- 2 [\(2\) Closed captions;](#)
- 3 [\(3\) Transcript; and](#)
- 4 [\(4\) A video clip of American sign language and captioning or transcript.](#)
- 5 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
A N A C T
RELATING TO PUBLIC PROPERTY AND WORKS

1 This act would require that all video clips and voice-recorded clips on state and public-
2 sponsored websites be made accessible to people with hearing impairment.

3 This act would take effect upon passage.

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