CERTIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT

**SENATE BILL 5027**

Chapter 229, Laws of 2021

67th Legislature

2021 Regular Session

TELEVISION CLOSED CAPTIONING—PLACES OF PUBLIC ACCOMMODATION

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 25, 2021

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| Passed by the Senate April 14, 2021  Yeas 48 Nays 0  DENNY HECK  **President of the Senate**  Passed by the House April 5, 2021  Yeas 97 Nays 0  LAURIE JINKINS  **Speaker of the House of Representatives** | CERTIFICATE  I, Brad Hendrickson, Secretary of the Senate of the State of Washington, do hereby certify that the attached is **SENATE BILL 5027** as passed by the Senate and the House of Representatives on the dates hereon set forth.  BRAD HENDRICKSON  Secretary |
| Approved May 10, 2021 3:25 PM | May 10, 2021 |
| JAY INSLEE  **Governor of the State of Washington** | **Secretary of State**  **State of Washington** |

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**SENATE BILL 5027**

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AS AMENDED BY THE HOUSE

Passed Legislature - 2021 Regular Session

**State of Washington 67th Legislature 2021 Regular Session**

**By** Senators Padden, Salomon, Hunt, Lovelett, Stanford, and Wilson, C.

AN ACT Relating to closed captioning on televisions in places of public accommodation; adding a new section to chapter 49.60 RCW; and prescribing penalties.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

NEW SECTION. **Sec.**  A new section is added to chapter 49.60 RCW to read as follows:

(1)(a) Any person that owns or manages a place of public accommodation that offers a closed-captioned television receiver for use in any public area must activate closed captioning with black background, white text color, and a style and size of font that is readable to people with low vision, unless:

(i) The only receiver of television programming available in a public area is technically incapable of displaying closed captioning; or

(ii) The place of public accommodation is otherwise exempt from the closed captioning requirement under state or federal law.

(b) In a public area with multiple televisions, up to 50 percent of on-premises televisions may be exempt from displaying closed captioning. The exempted televisions must clearly display that they do not have volume or are on mute.

(c) A place of public accommodation may deactivate closed captioning on a television receiver actively displaying text at the request of a vision impaired person. The deactivation of closed captioning is for the length of time the requestor is at the place of public accommodation.

(2) If multiple television models are displayed together for sale in a public area, at least one closed-captioned television must be available for viewing.

(3) If after 90 days from the effective date of this section a person that owns or manages a place of public accommodation fails to comply with the requirements of this section, that person shall be subject to a civil fine of up to $75 for each violation. Written notice of the violation must be provided to the person and must state that the fine will be assessed. The notice must also state that the person has an opportunity to cure the violation by complying with the requirement within 30 days after delivery of the notice. If the person demonstrates compliance within the 30-day period, the fine will not be assessed, and the violation must be dismissed. Any subsequent violation shall result in a civil fine of up to $150.

(4) For purposes of this section the following definitions apply:

(a) "Closed-captioned television receiver" means a receiver of television programming that has the ability to display closed captioning including, but not limited to, a television, digital set-top box, and other technology capable of displaying closed captioning for television programming.

(b) "Closed captioning" means a transcript or dialog of the audio portion of a television program that is displayed on either the bottom or top portion of a television receiver screen when the user activates the feature. There is no requirement for the closed-captioned transcript or dialog to be in any language other than the language of the audio programming, or a default language where a television receiver only displays one language.

(c) "Public area" means any part of a place of public accommodation that is open to the general public.

(5) A violation of this section is a violation of this chapter.

(6) The human rights commission must prepare an educational pamphlet advising employers and employees of their duty and liability under this section. The pamphlet should be made available online. Employers must provide employees with training on this section using the pamphlet.

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Passed by the Senate April 14, 2021.

Passed by the House April 5, 2021.

Approved by the Governor May 10, 2021.

Filed in Office of Secretary of State May 10, 2021.