

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 132

BY SENATOR BARROW

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request a special committee to study the feasibility of requiring businesses in Louisiana with drive-thru windows to utilize two-way cameras with captioning for hearing impaired and hard of hearing individuals.

WHEREAS, the current deaf and hard of hearing population in the United States is thirty-seven million; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana has the fifteenth largest population of deaf and hard of hearing (DHH) individuals in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Acadiana has the world's second largest concentration of deaf-blind individuals; and

WHEREAS, within the past thirty-five years, research and technology pertaining to DHH individuals have begun to address the need to accommodate these individuals and adhere to regulations stipulated in the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990; and

WHEREAS, for members of the DHH community, ordering food or drinks at a drive-thru can be a frustrating or impossible experience; and

WHEREAS, technology used for communication between hearing and DHH individuals, such as captioning and relay services, is relatively new; and

WHEREAS, before those services existed, the hearing and the DHH communities had little to no experience interacting with one another; and

WHEREAS, two-way cameras with captioning eliminate the communication barrier posed between the employee and customer, and minimizes communication errors due to background noises and static; and

WHEREAS, communication, whether spoken or signed, is a basic and vital aspect of life that no human being should be deprived of due to a lack of understanding or a communication barrier.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby request a special committee, composed of the chairman of the Senate Committee on Commerce and three members of such committee appointed by him and the chairman of the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare and three members of such committee appointed by him, to study the feasibility of requiring businesses in Louisiana with drive-thru windows to utilize two-way cameras with captioning for hearing impaired and hard of hearing individuals.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the special committee shall submit a written report of its findings, together with any recommendations in the form of proposed legislation, to the Legislature of Louisiana no later than February 1, 2017.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE