
SENATE BILL 6182

State of Washington

66th Legislature

2020 Regular Session

By Senator Padden

Prefiled 01/09/20.

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

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 49.60
6 RCW to read as follows:

7 (1) Any person that owns or manages a place of public
8 accommodation that offers a closed-captioned television receiver for
9 use in any public area must activate closed captioning, unless:

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

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

15 (2) If after ninety days from the effective date of this section
16 a person that owns or manages a place of public accommodation fails
17 to comply with the requirements of this section, that person shall be
18 subject to a civil fine of up to seventy-five dollars for each
19 violation. Any subsequent violation shall result in a civil fine of
20 up to one hundred fifty dollars.

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

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

6 (b) "Closed captioning" means a transcript or dialog of the audio
7 portion of a television program that is displayed on either the
8 bottom or top portion of a television receiver screen when the user
9 activates the feature.

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

12 (4) A violation of this section is a violation of this chapter.

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