

Senate Bill 473

By: Senators Williams of the 39th, Seay of the 34th and Jordan of the 6th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 1 of Title 30 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to  
2 general provisions relative to handicapped persons, so as to provide for real-time captioning  
3 of legislative proceedings for the deaf and hearing impaired; to provide for definitions; to  
4 provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

6 style="text-align:center">**SECTION 1.**

7 Chapter 1 of Title 30 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to general  
8 provisions relative to handicapped persons, is amended by adding a new Code section to read  
9 as follows:

10 "30-1-7.

11 (a) As used in this Code section, the term:

12 (1) 'Captioning' means the process of converting the audio content of a broadcast into  
13 text and displaying words as the textual equivalent of spoken dialogue or narration and  
14 includes speaker identification, sound effects, and music description. Captions are  
15 synchronized, appear at approximately the same time as the audio is delivered, and are  
16 equivalent and equal in content to that of the audio, including speaker identification and  
17 sound effects. When displayed, captions shall be in the same line of sight as any  
18 corresponding visual information, such as video, speaker, field of play, activity, or  
19 exhibition.

20 (2) 'Hearing impaired person' means any person who, absent the aid of a hearing device,  
21 has any degree of impairment in the ability to apprehend sound.

22 (3) 'Real-time captions' means captions provided for live presentations.

23 (b) Pursuant to the policy of the State of Georgia to secure the rights of deaf and hearing  
24 impaired persons who cannot readily understand and equally participate in or benefit from  
25 the activities of this state's legislative body, the General Assembly shall provide or cause  
26 to be provided real-time captions for the benefit of deaf and hearing impaired persons of

27 any House of Representatives and Senate standing committee meetings and any other live  
28 public broadcasts provided by or on behalf of the General Assembly for public viewing."

29 **SECTION 2.**

30 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.