

2018 Regular Session

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 16

BY SENATOR COLOMB

CONGRESS. Memorializes Congress to address the deaf and hard of hearing provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 To memorialize the Congress of the United States to review the Americans with Disabilities
3 Act section on telecommunications, codified as 47 U.S.C. §151, et seq., and
4 determine if additional provisions are needed to properly provide assistance in
5 entering numerical information when prompted by a computerized telephone system
6 for those who are hearing impaired, whether deaf or hard of hearing.

7 WHEREAS, the Americans with Disabilities Act was signed into law by President
8 George H. W. Bush on July 26, 1990, and became effective on that same day; and

9 WHEREAS, Title IV of that act dealt with telecommunications and began a
10 revolution in access to telecommunications for the hearing impaired, including both the deaf
11 and the hard of hearing; and

12 WHEREAS, while the manner of telecommunications has shifted from primarily
13 telephone use to largely broadband communications, which typically employ the Video
14 Relay Service (VRS) calls while other calls are translated to text; and

15 WHEREAS, both text and VRS have provided access to conversations for the
16 hearing impaired, however, nothing currently in federal law deals with the particular issue
17 of the ease of use of a computerized telephone system that requires a numerical response;
18 and

1 WHEREAS, as communications increasingly become driven by the use of numerical
2 responses, it becomes a progressively more important issue for the hearing impaired; and

3 WHEREAS, as the Americans with Disabilities Act has been amended to provide for
4 advances in technology and modes of transportation, it is appropriate that the Congress of
5 the United States consider the issue of accessibility to input numerical information when
6 prompted by a computerized telephone system for those who are hearing impaired, whether
7 deaf or hard of hearing.

8 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
9 memorialize the Congress of the United States to review the Americans with Disabilities Act
10 section on telecommunications, codified as 47 U.S.C. §151, et seq., and determine if
11 additional provisions are needed to properly provide assistance in entering numerical
12 information when prompted by a computerized telephone system for those who are hearing
13 impaired, whether deaf or hard of hearing.

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution shall be transmitted
15 to the secretary of the United States Senate, the clerk of the United States House of
16 Representatives, and to each member of the Louisiana delegation to the United States
17 Congress.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part
of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Mary Dozier O'Brien.

DIGEST

SCR 16 Original

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Colomb

Memorializes congress to review the Americans with Disabilities Act section on telecommunications and determine if additional provisions are needed to properly provide assistance in entering numerical information when prompted by a computerized telephone system for those who are hearing impaired, whether deaf or hard of hearing.