

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Subject: Requirements for closed captioning in medical facilities

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Overview

This bill requires certain medical facilities and public spaces to keep closed captioning on public televisions that have closed captioning capabilities. A failure to keep the closed captioning function on would be a violation of the Minnesota Human Rights Act and allow an aggrieved party to file a civil action or seek redress from the Minnesota Department of Human Rights.

Section

- 1 Specific prohibitions.** Provides that it is a violation of the Minnesota Human Rights Act for a health care facility, defined as a hospital, sanitarium, supervised living facility, nursing home, or youth camp, to fail to provide closed captioning on television in waiting rooms when the television have the closed captioning capabilities, except when the closed captioning was turned off by a member of the public and turned back on as soon as practicable.
- 2 Closed captioning.** Provides that it is a violation of the Minnesota Human Rights Act for a facility offering public services, defined as any public facility, department, agency, board, or commission, owned, operated, or managed by or on behalf of the state of Minnesota, or any subdivision thereof, including any county, city, town, township, or independent district in the state, to fail to provide closed captioning on televisions that are available to the public and that have the closed captioning feature, except when the closed captioning is turned off by a member of the public and the captioning is turned back on as soon as practicable.