

SCR 105

Date of Hearing: April 7, 2009

Committee: Senate Human Services

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Patricia Hamamoto, Superintendent

Title: SCR 105, Urging Public and Private Agencies to Encourage Their Parent Clients to Turn On Closed Captioning When Their Children Watch Television.

Purpose: Television; Use of Closed-Captioning For Children.

Department's Position: The Department of Education (Department) opposes SCR 105, the use of closed captioning as children watch television for the following reasons.

- Caption Quality is an issue. Fewer than 10% of the companies offering captioning services have met the strict standards of the Described Captioned and Media Program, Office of Special Education Programs, U.S. Department of Education. Captions may not be accurately transcribed as the dialog does not match the written word, and typographical/spelling errors may be present setting a poor model for students with learning disabilities;
- The timing of captions will vary depending on the different captioning companies, and this delay or sequential time code may confuse students. Some captions run so quickly that even

a mature reader may not be able to read them and students may become frustrated;

- Sound effects are often written into the captioning which may further confuse students;
- Captions are all white uppercase (capital) letters which may confuse beginning readers who are learning that capital letters occur at the beginning of the first word of a sentence.

For the reasons stated above, the Department opposes SCR 105.