

2019 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 68

BY REPRESENTATIVE LEGER

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Department of Transportation and Development to install accessible pedestrian signals at certain intersections.

WHEREAS, accessible pedestrian signals provide audible and tactile information to pedestrians regarding WALK and DON'T WALK intervals at signalized intersections; and

WHEREAS, people who are visually impaired, blind, and deaf-blind rely on audible and tactile information to safely cross intersections; and

WHEREAS, state and local governments are required to provide equal access to public goods and services to people with disabilities under the Americans with Disabilities Act; and

WHEREAS, 52,822 adults age forty and older in Louisiana are blind or have low vision; and

WHEREAS, diabetic retinopathy, cataracts, and glaucoma affect another 484,398 adults age forty and older in Louisiana, a figure that represents 23.8% of Louisiana's population over the age of forty; and

WHEREAS, the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices, issued by the Federal Highway Administration of the United States Department of Transportation, defines an "accessible pedestrian signal" as a device designated to assist a pedestrian who has visual or physical disabilities in activating the pedestrian phase; and

WHEREAS, accessible pedestrian devices communicate information about the WALK and DON'T WALK intervals at signalized intersections, in nonvisual formats, to pedestrians who are blind or have low vision; and

WHEREAS, a design that is beneficial for people with visual impairments is beneficial for all pedestrians including seniors and tourists; and

WHEREAS, accessible pedestrian devices have the following benefits: (1) make it easier for visually impaired pedestrians to safely cross the street; (2) reduce crossings during the DON'T WALK phase; (3) allow more crossings in each signal interval; and (4) improve crossing speeds for sighted pedestrians.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development to adopt proactive policies to implement accessible pedestrian signals when new traffic signals are installed or existing traffic signals are altered at intersections with pedestrian signals that are operated by the state of Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the secretary of the Department of Transportation and Development.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE