

Regular Session, 2013

HOUSE BILL NO. 415

BY REPRESENTATIVES ORTEGO AND ST. GERMAIN

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

TRANSPORTATION: Requires the Dept. of Transportation and Development to adopt a supplement to the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices to provide for the usage of certain guide signs

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 32:235(A)(1) and to enact R.S. 25:651(C)(7) and R.S.
3 32:235(A)(3), relative to guide signs; to require the Department of Transportation
4 and Development to adopt a supplement to the manual and specifications for a
5 uniform system of traffic control devices that provides for certain guide signs; to
6 require the Department of Transportation and Development to test certain guide
7 signs; to provide for an advisory authority; and to provide for related matters.

8 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

9 Section 1. R.S. 25:651(C)(7) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

10 §651. Creation; domicile; purposes

11 * * *

12 C. The purposes of the council shall include the following:

13 * * *

14 (7) To advise the Department of Transportation and Development of the
15 proper usage of Louisiana French on guide signs.

16 * * *

17 Section 2. R.S. 32:235(A)(1) is hereby amended and reenacted and R.S.
18 32:235(A)(3) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

1 §235. Uniform highway marking system

2 A.(1) The department shall adopt a manual and specifications for a uniform
3 system of traffic control devices consistent with the provisions of this Chapter for
4 use upon highways within this state. Such uniform system shall correlate with and
5 so far as possible conform to the system then current as approved by the United
6 States Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, except that
7 the department shall adopt a supplement to the manual, subject to approval by the
8 United States Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, which
9 requires the utilization of symbols only where practical and terms in both Louisiana
10 French and English languages in all other instances on all new and replacement
11 guide signs erected along state and federal highways. The supplement shall also
12 require dominant language terms to appear at the top of the guide sign and minority
13 language terms to appear at the bottom of the guide sign, with all terms appearing
14 in the same size font. The Council for the Development of French in Louisiana, R.S.
15 25:651 et seq., shall advise the department in the proper usage of Louisiana French
16 on guide signs. ~~provided that the~~ Furthermore, the department is authorized to
17 deviate from said system and to erect advisory signs only to post advisory weight
18 limits on state bridges where a state bridge is scheduled for replacement or
19 strengthening within three years from the date of approval by the chief engineer of
20 the department's weight rating evaluation of any state bridge. In addition, the
21 department may deviate from the criteria contained in said system for location of
22 traffic signals to the extent that additional weighted consideration shall be given to
23 pedestrian and vehicular traffic volumes associated with schools which are located
24 on state highways.

25 * * *

26 (3) Prior to submitting the supplement required by Paragraph (1) of this
27 Subsection for approval by the United States Department of Transportation and
28 Development, Federal Highway Administration, and with the concurrence or
29 permission of same, the department shall test guide signs that utilize symbols and

1 guide signs that utilize terms in both Louisiana French and English in the parishes
 2 listed in R.S. 25:651(C)(5) to determine their usefulness in successfully and
 3 consistently guiding the public. The Council for the Development of French in
 4 Louisiana, R.S. 25:651 et seq., shall advise the department in the proper usage of
 5 Louisiana French on guide signs throughout the testing period.

6 * * *

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

Ortego

HB No. 415

Abstract: Requires the Dept. of Transportation and Development to adopt a supplement to the manual and specifications for a uniform system of traffic control devices which requires symbol dominant or bilingual guide signs along state and federal highway routes. Provides that the Council for the Development of French in La. to act as an advisory authority to the department.

Present law requires the Dept. of Transportation and Development (DOTD) to adopt a manual and specifications for a uniform system of traffic control devices consistent for use upon highways within this state. Such uniform system is required to correlate with and so far as possible conform to the system then current as approved by the U.S. Dept. of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration.

Proposed law requires DOTD to adopt a supplement to the manual required by present law, subject to approval by the U.S. Dept. of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, which shall require that all new and replacement guide signs erected along state and federal highways utilize symbols where practical and the La. French and English languages in all other instances. The supplement shall also require dominant language terms to appear at the top of the guide sign and minority language terms to appear at the bottom of the guide sign, with all terms appearing in the same size font.

Proposed law requires DOTD, prior to submitting the supplement required by proposed law, for approval by the U.S. Dept. of Transportation and Development, Federal Highway Administration, and with the concurrence or permission of same, to test guides signs that utilize symbols and guide signs that utilize both La. French and English terms in the certain parishes to determine their usefulness in successfully and consistently guiding the public.

Proposed law provides that the Council for the Development of French in La. shall advise the department in the proper usage of La. French on guide signs.

(Amends R.S. 32:235(A)(1); Adds R.S. 25:651(C)(7) and R.S. 32:235(A)(3))