Regular Session, 2014

HOUSE BILL NO. 998

### BY REPRESENTATIVE ORTEGO

# TRANSPORTATION: Requires DOTD to supplement the manual on uniform traffic control devices to permit certain guide signs to appear in English and Louisiana French

1	AN ACT
2	To amend and reenact R.S. 32:235(A) and to enact R.S. 25:651(C)(7), relative to the
3	uniform highway marking system manual and specifications for a uniform system
4	of traffic control devices; to require the Department of Transportation and
5	Development to adopt a supplement and specifications to the manual on uniform
6	traffic control devices permitting parish governing authorities to request bilingual
7	signs on certain roads; to provide guidelines for the supplement to be adopted by the
8	Department of Transportation and Development; to provide for additional authority
9	for the Council for the Development of French in Louisiana; and to provide for
10	related matters.
11	Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:
12	Section 1. R.S. $25:651(C)(7)$ is hereby enacted to read as follows:
13	§651. Creation; domicile; purposes
14	* * *
15	C. The purposes of the council shall include the following:
16	* * *
17	(7) To provide and approve Louisiana French terms for the supplement to
18	the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) to be placed on bilingual
19	and symbol-based signs to be installed by the Department of Transportation and

1	Development on state and federal highways pursuant to the uniform highway
2	marking system, R.S. 32:235 et seq.
3	* * *
4	Section 2. R.S. 32:235(A) is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:
5	§235. Uniform highway marking system
6	A. (1) The department shall adopt a manual and specifications for a uniform
7	system of traffic control devices consistent with the provisions of this Chapter for
8	use upon highways within this state. Such uniform system shall correlate with and
9	so far as possible conform to the system then current as approved by the United
10	States Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, Manual on
11	Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD), except that the department shall
12	develop a supplement to the manual with all symbol-based or bilingual signs that
13	display terms in both English and Louisiana French, subject to approval by the
14	United States Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, which
15	permits parish governing authorities to adopt such supplement request signs along
16	state and federal highways within their boundaries be bilingual and display terms in
17	both English and Louisiana French. In developing the supplement, the department
18	shall adhere to the following:
19	(2) <u>The department shall coordinate with the Council for the Development</u>
20	of French in Louisiana pursuant to R.S. 25:651 et seq., prior to application for
21	approval from the United States Department of Transportation, Federal Highway
22	Administration.
23	(3) The supplement shall provide a process by which a parish governing
24	authority may formally adopt the supplement. In the event the United States
25	Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration does not approve
26	the bilingual supplement, it shall be returned to the governing authority of the parish
27	which requested approval of a bilingual supplement. The parish governing authority
28	may only proceed with local adoption of the supplement as it was submitted to the

1	United States Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration but
2	shall not erect any bilingual sign on any state or federal highway within the parish.
3	(4) provided that the The department is authorized to may deviate from said
4	system and to erect advisory signs only to post advisory weight limits on state
5	bridges where a state bridge is scheduled for replacement or strengthening within
6	three years from the date of approval by the chief engineer of the department's
7	weight rating evaluation of any state bridge. In addition, the department may deviate
8	from the criteria contained in said system for location of traffic signals to the extent
9	that additional weighted consideration shall be given to pedestrian and vehicular
10	traffic volumes associated with schools which are located on state highways.
11	(5) The department shall require that any signage on public highways which
12	indicates maximum or minimum speed limits in kilometers also indicate such speed
13	limits in miles per hour.
14	* * *

## 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. 998

Abstract: Requires the Dept. of Transportation and Development (DOTD) to supplement the Manual On Uniform Traffic Code Devices (MUTCD) to permit certain signs to appear in English and Louisiana French.

<u>Present law</u> provides for the authority of the Council for the Development of French in Louisiana (CODOFIL).

<u>Proposed law</u> provides for the authority of the CODOFIL to provide and approve Louisiana French terms for the bilingual language supplement to be produced by DOTD.

<u>Present law</u> provides for the adoption and specifications of a manual for a uniform system of traffic control devices. Such uniform system shall correlate with and so far as possible conform to the system current as approved by the U.S. Dept. of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration.

<u>Proposed law</u> provides for the adoption of a supplement to the manual for a uniform system of traffic control devices with specifications and guidelines permitting parish governing authorities to request signs along state and federal highways within their boundaries be bilingual and display terms in both English and Louisiana French.

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<u>Proposed law</u> provides for a process by which a parish governing authority may formally adopt the supplement prior to erecting signs. In the event the Federal Highway Administration does not approve the bilingual supplement, the supplement must be returned to the governing authority of the parish which requested it. The parish governing authorities may adopt the supplement as it was submitted to the U.S. Dept. of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, but are prohibited from erecting such bilingual signs on state or federal highways within the parish.

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

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

Committee Amendments Proposed by <u>House Committee on Transportation, Highways</u> <u>and Public Works</u> to the <u>original</u> bill.

- 1. Clarified a provision that specifies that if the bilingual supplement is not approved, the U.S. Dept. of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration must return the supplement to the governing authority of the parish which requested it and that the governing authority may only proceed with local adoption of the supplement as it was submitted to the U.S. Dept. of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, but cannot erect any bilingual sign on any state or federal highway within the parish.
- 2. Removed the provision that provides for the supplement cost not to exceed MUTCD standards.