

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 that signs  
16 along state and federal highways within their boundaries be bilingual, and display  
17 terms in both English and Louisiana French. In developing the supplement, the  
18 department shall adhere to the following:

19 (2) The department shall coordinate with the Council for the Development  
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  
29 United States Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration but



Proposed law 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. Requires signs installed on parish roads shall be at the expense of 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 House Committee on Transportation, Highways and Public Works to the original 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.

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

House Floor Amendments to the engrossed bill.

1. Made technical changes.
2. Provided that all signs erected by a parish after their supplement has been denied by the U.S. Dept. of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, shall be erected at the expense of the parish governing authority.