



Legislation Text

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Int. No. 2020

By Council Members Rosenthal, Gjonaj, Chin, Rivera, Dinowitz, Levin, Brooks-Powers, Lander, Riley, Koslowitz, Louis and the Public Advocate (Mr. Williams)

A Local Law to amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to open captioning at motion picture theatres

Be it enacted by the Council as follows:

Section 1. Chapter 4 of title 20 of the administrative code of the city of New York is amended by adding a new subchapter 13 to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER 13

MOTION PICTURE THEATERS

§ 20-699.7 Open captioning in motion picture theaters. a. Definitions. As used in this section, the following terms have the following meanings:

Motion picture. The term “motion picture” means a story or event recorded by a camera as a set of moving images. Such term includes the term movie.

Motion picture theater. The term “motion picture theater” means an entity in the business of providing showings of motion pictures to the general public.

Open movie captioning. The term "open movie captioning" means the written, on-screen display of a motion picture's dialogue and non-speech information, including music, the identity of the character who is speaking and other sounds and sound effects.

Peak movie attendance hours. The term “peak movie attendance hours” means:

1. A motion picture showing that begins after 5:59 p.m. and finishes before 11:01 p.m. on Friday; or

2. A motion picture showing that begins after 11:59 a.m. and finishes before 11:01 p.m. on Saturday or Sunday.

b. Open movie captioning required. A motion picture theater with more than two screens and that provides more than 10 showings per week shall provide scheduled showings of motion pictures with open movie captioning such that at least half of the weekly scheduled showings of each motion picture currently showing at the motion picture theater have open movie captioning.

c. Exceptions. A motion picture that is produced and distributed without open movie captioning is not subject to the provisions of subdivision b of this section.

d. Timing. 1. At least half of the scheduled showings required pursuant to subdivision b of this section shall be provided during peak movie attendance hours. At least half of the scheduled showings required pursuant to subdivision b of this section that are scheduled outside of peak movie attendance hours shall start after 5:59 p.m. and finish before 11:01 p.m. on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays or Thursdays.

2. To the extent possible, no showing of a motion picture with open captioning shall overlap with another showing of a motion picture with open captioning.

3. No showing of a motion picture with open movie captioning shall overlap with another showing of the same motion picture with open movie captioning.

e. Public notice. A motion picture theater subject to the provisions of subdivision b of this section shall advertise the date and time of motion picture showings required by subdivision b in the same manner as the motion picture theater advertises all other motion picture showings.

f. Violations. Any motion picture theater that violates any of the provisions of this section shall be subject to a civil penalty of not less than \$100 nor more than \$500 for each violation. A violation of this section may also violate the reasonable accommodation provisions of title 8 of this code and be subject to enforcement by the city commission on human rights.

§ 2. This local law takes effect 120 days after it becomes law.

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