



Act A-03-22
The University of Alabama
26th Senate 2021-2022

Author: Councilor Hallie Bender, Senator Luke Dille, Senator Collier Dobbs

Sponsors: Councilor Caroline Long, Councilor Ella Romine, Councilor Karim Panjawani, Councilor Megan O'Donovan, Councilor Catherine Gray, Councilor Zoe Ladner, Councilor Isabell Trafton, Councilor Antonio Fox, Councilor Grace Murphy, Councilor Hannah Vandiver, Councilor Rachel Narbo, Councilor Jackson Carter, Councilor Kirstin Zimmermann, Councilor Erin Hidalgo,

Endorsements:

AN ACT TO ENSURE ACCOMMODATIONS ARE MET FOR DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING STUDENTS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA BY PROVIDING CLOSED CAPTIONING FOR ALL PUBLIC MULTIMEDIA PRESENTATIONS

Be it enacted by the First Year Council of the Student Government Association assembled.

Section 1. Findings:

1. According to section 36.202 of The Americans With Disabilities Act under Title III regulations state “(b) *Participation in unequal benefit.* A public accommodation shall not afford an individual or class of individuals, on the basis of a disability or disabilities of such individual or class, directly, or through contractual, licensing, or other arrangements, with the opportunity to participate in or benefit from a good, service, facility, privilege, advantage, or accommodation that is not equal to that afforded to other individuals.” and, under Section 36.303 of Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act also states “(c) *Effective communication.* A public

accommodation shall furnish appropriate auxiliary aids and services where necessary to ensure effective communication with individuals with disabilities.”

2. Deaf and Hard of Hearing students at the University of Alabama have raised concerns considering the lack of accommodation for deaf and hard of hearing students in media presentations and have expressed a desire for closed captioning in media presentations
3. Without proper accommodations like closed captioning in media presentations given by on campus organizations, students that are hard of hearing or deaf cannot participate
4. The purpose of the University of Alabama is to prepare students for success post-graduation and promote civil engagement and foster inclusion for all students no matter disability
5. Promoting the use of closed captioning on all multimedia presentations in all student organizations on campus should be encouraged to increase accessibility on campus
6. The Office of Information Technology can now provide a *Rev* captioning account through the SGA advisor for the SGA to facilitate closed captioned content to campus organizations ensuring that all requirements are met for accessibility

Section 2. Legislation:

1. ***Therefore, be it resolved,*** in the interest of inclusion of all students including deaf and hard of hearing students, the SGA Senate directs the Financial Affairs Committee of the SGA to require all registered student organizations that receive Student Government Association and Financial Affairs Committee Funding be required to include closed captioning on all public facing media presentations through Rev to engage and include the entire student body at the University of Alabama.
2. ***Therefore, be it further resolved,*** the SGA senate strongly encourages all registered student organizations utilizing public facing multimedia presentations to utilize the SGA and the University of Alabama’s free closed captioning resources and software
3. ***Be it further resolved,*** that copies of this act be sent to: Dr. Steven Hood, Interim Vice President of Student Life; Cassie Yeager, advisor Financial Aid Committee; Meagan Bennett, Director of Customer Relations of Office of Information Technology; Jillian

Fields, SGA President; Sam Rickert, Executive Vice President; Sullivan Irvine, Vice President for financial affairs; Jack Steinmetz, Vice President of Student Affairs; Madeline Martin, Vice President for External Affairs; Amanda Allen, Vice President for Academic Affairs; Lauren Gilonske, Vice President for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion; Will Bradley, FYC Director; Will Stiers, Co-Director of FYC; Colby Lewis, Director of New Organizations and Initiatives of The Source; Angel-Narvaez-Lugo, Interim Advisor Student Governance; and others as may be deemed necessary at a later date.