

Regular Session, 2013

HOUSE BILL NO. 415

BY REPRESENTATIVES ORTEGO, BARRAS, GUINN,
JOHNSON, JONES, LEBAS, MILLER, MONTOUCET, ST.
GERMAIN, THIBAUT, AND THIERRY

VETOED
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Veto Message

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

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 32:235(A) and to enact R.S. 25:651(C)(7), relative to guide
3 signs; to require the Department of Transportation and Development to adopt a
4 supplement to the manual and specifications for a uniform system of traffic control
5 devices that permits parish governing authorities to request bilingual guide signs on
6 certain roads; to provide guidelines for the supplement to be adopted by the
7 Department of Transportation and Development; to provide for additional authority
8 for the Council for the Development of French in Louisiana; and to provide for
9 related matters.

10 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

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

12 §651. Creation; domicile; purposes

13 * * *

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

15 * * *

16 (7) To approve or provide Louisiana French terms to be placed on bilingual
17 guide signs to be installed by the Department of Transportation and Development on
18 state and federal highways.

19 * * *

20 Section 2. R.S. 32:235(A) is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

21 §235. Uniform highway marking system

22 A.(1) The department shall adopt a manual and specifications for a uniform
23 system of traffic control devices consistent with the provisions of this Chapter for

CODING: Words in ~~struck through~~ type are deletions from existing law; words underscored are additions.

1 use upon highways within this state. Such uniform system shall correlate with and
2 so far as possible conform to the system then current as approved by the United
3 States Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, except that
4 the department shall adopt a supplement to the manual, subject to approval by the
5 United States Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, which
6 permits parish governing authorities to request that specific guide signs along state
7 and federal highways within their boundaries be bilingual and display terms in both
8 English and the language requested by the parish governing authority. The
9 supplement shall provide guidelines for uniform bilingual guide signs that are
10 installed on federal and state highways throughout the state. In developing the
11 supplement, the department shall coordinate with the Council for the Development
12 of French in Louisiana, R.S. 25:651 et seq.

13 (2) The supplement shall provide a process by which a parish governing
14 authority may make a request for bilingual guide signs. The process shall, at
15 minimum, include the following:

16 (a) The parish governing authority shall identify which guide signs that it
17 wants to be bilingual along the state and federal highways within its boundaries.

18 (b) The parish governing authority shall identify the language to be used on
19 bilingual guide signs within its boundaries.

20 (c) The parish governing authority shall submit the non-English terms and
21 spelling thereof to be used on each bilingual guide sign within its boundaries. The
22 non-English terms and spelling thereof shall be subject to the approval of the
23 department, unless the submitted non-English terms are Louisiana French.
24 Submissions of Louisiana French terms shall be approved by the Council for the
25 Development of French in Louisiana, R.S. 25:651 et seq. If the Council for the
26 Development of French in Louisiana does not approve the Louisiana French terms
27 submitted, it shall provide alternative Louisiana French terms to be used on bilingual
28 guide signs.

29 (d) The department shall bear the cost of the production and installation if
30 a guide sign that the parish governing authority requests to be bilingual is set for

1 replacement or installation in the fiscal year that the request is made. However, the
2 parish governing authority shall bear any increased cost in production or installation,
3 or both, caused by the placement of the bilingual terms on the guide sign.

4 (e) The parish governing authority shall bear the entire cost of the production
5 and installation if a guide sign that the parish governing authority requests to be
6 bilingual is not set for replacement or installation in the fiscal year that the request
7 is made.

8 (3) provided that the ~~The department is authorized to~~ may deviate from said
9 system and may to erect advisory signs only to post advisory weight limits on state
10 bridges where a state bridge is scheduled for replacement or strengthening within
11 three years from the date of approval by the chief engineer of the department's
12 weight rating evaluation of any state bridge. In addition, the department may deviate
13 from the criteria contained in said system for location of traffic signals to the extent
14 that additional weighted consideration shall be given to pedestrian and vehicular
15 traffic volumes associated with schools which are located on state highways.

16 ~~(2)~~(4) The department shall require that any signage on public highways
17 which indicates maximum or minimum speed limits in kilometers also indicate such
18 speed limits in miles per hour.

19 * * *

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____

VETO MESSAGE

House Bill No. 415 requires the Department of Transportation and Development to submit a plan amendment to the US Department of Transportation to allow new and replacement standard traffic signs to be bilingual. As originally filed, the bill restricted bilingual signage to French, a language with which Louisiana has a long and standing cultural history. However, the bill was amended to include any language, which may or may not have a cultural connection to Louisiana.

In lieu of this legislation, I will issue an executive order instructing the Department of Transportation and Development to submit a plan amendment to the US Department of Transportation to allow new and replacement standard traffic signs to be displayed in both English and French.

For this reason, I have vetoed House Bill No. 415 and hereby return it to the House of Representatives.