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) 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. In the event the supplement is not approved by the United States
23	Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, the department
24	shall make the necessary adjustments required for such approval.
25	(3) The supplement shall provide a process by which a parish governing
26	authority may formally adopt the supplement. In the event the United States
27	Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, does not approve
28	the bilingual supplement, parish governing authorities may proceed with local

1	adoption of the supplement, but are prohibited from erecting bilingual signs on
2	federal highways within the parish.
3	(4) The cost of signs included in the bilingual supplement shall not exceed
4	current MUTCD standards.
5	(5) provided that the The department is authorized to may deviate from said
6	system and to erect advisory signs only to post advisory weight limits on state
7	bridges where a state bridge is scheduled for replacement or strengthening within
8	three years from the date of approval by the chief engineer of the department's
9	weight rating evaluation of any state bridge. In addition, the department may deviate
10	from the criteria contained in said system for location of traffic signals to the extent
11	that additional weighted consideration shall be given to pedestrian and vehicular
12	traffic volumes associated with schools which are located on state highways.
13	(6) The department shall require that any signage on public highways which
14	indicates maximum or minimum speed limits in kilometers also indicate such speed
15	limits in miles per hour.
16	* * *

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.

<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, parish governing authorities may adopt the supplement, but are prohibited from erecting such bilingual signs on federal highways within the parish.

<u>Proposed law</u> provides for the supplement cost not to exceed MUTCD standards.

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