

2016 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 204

BY REPRESENTATIVE BISHOP

A RESOLUTION

To encourage retail establishments with public areas, including restaurants, food service establishments, offices of medical providers, facilities that offer sleeping rooms, barber shops, and beauty shops, as well as meeting rooms and waiting rooms for many other offices, to dedicate at least five percent of their total seating to chairs with arms in order to accommodate persons with physical disabilities or limited mobility and to provide better accessibility to these establishments that invite and serve the public.

WHEREAS, accessibility to retail establishments and public areas is important to the citizens of Louisiana, especially to those facing challenges with disabilities or limited mobility, whose quality of life is greatly impacted by such accessibility; and

WHEREAS, it is envisioned that a reasonable amount of armchair seating be provided to persons with such disabilities or limited mobility in retail establishments with public areas, including restaurants, food service establishments, offices of medical providers, facilities that offer sleeping rooms, barber shops, and beauty shops, as well as meeting rooms and waiting rooms for many other offices, in order to accommodate such persons and to provide better accessibility in these establishments and areas that invite and serve the public; and

WHEREAS, people with physical disabilities or limited mobility face unique challenges daily and are dependent upon the commitment of the community to identify and assist with removing barriers particularly with respect to accessibility in retail establishments and public areas; and

WHEREAS, businesses in this state should be encouraged to provide accessibility to retail establishments and public areas for physically disabled persons and those with limited mobility; and

WHEREAS, the federal Americans with Disabilities Act states that "no individual shall be discriminated against on the basis of disability in the full and equal enjoyment of the goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages, or accommodations of any place of public accommodation by any person who owns, leases or leases to, or operates a place of public accommodation"; and

WHEREAS, a commitment should be made to all citizens of Louisiana living with physical disabilities or limited mobility that they have proper access to all retail establishments and public areas by encouraging businesses to provide a minimum percentage of their seating to chairs with arms to accommodate such persons.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby encourage retail establishments with public areas, including restaurants, food service establishments, offices of medical providers, facilities that offer sleeping rooms, barber shops, and beauty shops, as well as meeting rooms and waiting rooms for many other offices, to dedicate at least five percent of total seating to chairs with arms in order to accommodate persons with physical disabilities or limited mobility and to provide better accessibility to these establishments that invite and serve the public.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the president of the Louisiana Restaurant Association, the executive director of the Louisiana Retailers Association, the president of the Louisiana Hotel and Lodging Association, and the president of the Louisiana Association of Business and Industry.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES