

Regular Session, 2013

HOUSE BILL NO. 415

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

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

TRANSPORTATION: Requires the Dept. of Transportation and Development to adopt a supplement to the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices to provide for the usage of certain guide signs

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 32:235(A)(1) and to enact R.S. 25:651(C)(7) and R.S.  
3 32:235(A)(3) and (4), relative to guide signs; to require the Department of  
4 Transportation and Development to adopt a supplement to the manual and  
5 specifications for a uniform system of traffic control devices that permits parish  
6 governing authorities to request bilingual guide signs on certain roads; to provide  
7 guidelines for the supplement to be adopted by the Department of Transportation and  
8 Development; to provide for additional authority for the Council for the  
9 Development of French in Louisiana; and to provide for 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 \* \* \*

1 Section 2. R.S. 32:235(A)(1) is hereby amended and reenacted and R.S.  
2 32:235(A)(3) and (4) are hereby enacted to read as follows:

3 §235. Uniform highway marking system

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

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

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

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

25 (c) The parish governing authority shall submit the non-English terms and  
26 spelling thereof to be used on each bilingual guide sign within its boundaries. The  
27 non-English terms and spelling thereof shall be subject to the approval of the  
28 department, unless the submitted non-English terms are Louisiana French.  
29 Submissions of Louisiana French terms shall be approved by the Council for the

1           Development of French in Louisiana, R.S. 25:651 et seq. If the Council for the  
2           Development of French in Louisiana does not approve the Louisiana French terms  
3           submitted, it shall provide alternative Louisiana French terms to be used on bilingual  
4           guide signs.

5                   (d) The department shall bear the cost of the production and installation if  
6           a guide sign that the parish governing authority requests to be bilingual is set for  
7           replacement or installation in the fiscal year that the request is made. However, the  
8           parish governing authority shall bear any increased cost in production or installation,  
9           or both, caused by the placement of the bilingual terms on the guide sign.

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

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

22                   ~~(2)~~(4) The department shall require that any signage on public highways  
23           which indicates maximum or minimum speed limits in kilometers also indicate such  
24           speed limits in miles per hour.

25   \*       \*       \*

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

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**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)]

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Ortego

HB No. 415

**Abstract:** Requires the Dept. of Transportation and Development to adopt a supplement to the manual and specifications for a uniform system of traffic control devices which permits parish governing authorities to request bilingual guide signs on state and federal highways within their boundaries. Provides that the Council for the Development of French in La. act as an advisory authority to the department.

Present law requires the Dept. of Transportation and Development (DOTD) to adopt a manual and specifications for a uniform system of traffic control devices consistent for use upon highways within this state. Such uniform system is required to correlate with and so far as possible conform to the system then current as approved by the U.S. Dept. of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration.

Proposed law requires DOTD to adopt a supplement to the manual required by present law, subject to approval by the U.S. Dept. of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, which shall permit parish governing authorities to request bilingual guide signs on state and federal highways within their boundaries.

Proposed law requires that any such supplement require uniformity for all bilingual guide signs installed on state and federal highways.

Proposed law provides that DOTD shall coordinate with the Council for the Development of French in La. in developing the supplement.

Proposed law requires that the supplement shall provide a process by which a parish governing authority may make a request for bilingual guide signs.

Proposed law provides that this process shall, at minimum, require the parish governing authorities to identify the signs it wishes to be bilingual, the non-English language to be used on the bilingual guide signs, and the terms and spelling thereof of any such non-English terms to appear on the bilingual signs. DOTD shall have approval of the non-English terms and the spelling thereof, unless the submitted terms are in Louisiana French. The Council for the Development of French in La. (CODOFIL) shall approve terms submitted in Louisiana French or provide alternative Louisiana French terms.

Proposed law provides that DOTD shall bear the cost of the production and installation if a guide sign that a parish governing authority requests to be bilingual is set for replacement or installation in the fiscal year that the request is made. However, the parish governing authority shall bear any increased cost in production or installation, or both, caused by the placement of the bilingual terms on the guide sign.

Proposed law provides that a parish governing authority shall bear the entire cost of the production and installation if a guide sign that the parish governing authority requests to be bilingual is not set for replacement or installation in the fiscal year that the request is made.

(Amends R.S. 32:235(A)(1); Adds R.S. 25:651(C)(7) and R.S. 32:235(A)(3) and (4))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Transportation, Highways and Public Works to the original bill.

1. Removed references to symbol dominate signage.
2. Modified a provision relative to the purpose of CODOFIL to authorize the approval and provision of Louisiana French terms on signage to be installed by DOTD on state and federal highways.
3. Removed that the supplement to be adopted by DOTD require the use of terms in Louisiana French and English on new and replacement guide signs on state and federal highways.
4. Instead provided that the supplement required to be adopted by DOTD permit parish governing authorities to request bilingual guide signs on state and federal highways within their boundaries, require uniformity for all bilingual guide signs, and provide guidelines to ensure such uniformity. Further provided that DOTD coordinate with CODOFIL in developing the supplement.
5. Required that the supplement to be adopted by DOTD provide a process by which a parish governing authority may make a request for bilingual guide signs, and for minimum standards for that process, including that the parish shall submit non-English terms to be used on bilingual guide signs to DOTD for approval. CODOFIL shall have approval of Louisiana French terms or provide alternative Louisiana French terms.
6. Added provisions that provide relative to payment for production and installation of bilingual guide signs requested by parish governing authorities.
7. Removed that the supplement shall require dominant language terms appear at the top of the sign and minority language terms appear at the bottom of the sign with all terms appearing in the same size font.
8. Removed part of proposed law requiring testing of bilingual guide signs in certain parishes enumerated in present law.