

Regular Session, 2014

HOUSE BILL NO. 200

BY REPRESENTATIVE STUART BISHOP

PROPERTY/PUBLIC: Provides relative to arm chairs in public seating areas of state buildings

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 38:2318.2(A), (B)(1) and (4), and (C)(6)(a), relative to the
3 purchase of certain furniture as part of the Universal Design Program; to expand the
4 purpose of the Universal Design Program to include the purchase of certain furniture;
5 to revise certain definitions and guidelines; and to provide for related matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. R.S. 38:2318.2(A), (B)(1) and (4), and (C)(6)(a) are hereby amended and
8 reenacted to read as follows:

9 §2318.2. Percent for Universal Design Program; established

10 A. Recognizing the declaration of rights underlying the state's constitution,
11 government is instituted to protect the rights of the individual and provide for the
12 good of the whole; hence, the legislature declares it to be the public policy of the
13 state that a portion of money spent by the state and state agencies on the construction
14 or renovation of state buildings, as well as the purchase of certain furniture for state
15 buildings, should be spent on implementing principles of universal design and
16 accommodating the seating needs of certain users. In pursuit of this policy, the
17 Percent for Universal Design Program is established for the purpose of providing for
18 the implementation of such principles in or on state buildings and grounds to move
19 beyond minimum accessibility requirements, maximize accessibility for all users
20 regardless of their functional capabilities, and bring to the attention of architects,

1 builders, and the public at large the vast benefits that can be realized by
2 implementing universal design principles in the construction and renovation of all
3 buildings, including those privately owned and personal residences.

4 B. The following terms as used in this Section shall have the meaning
5 provided in this Subsection unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

6 (1) "Renovation" does not include a project the principal purpose of which
7 is the rehabilitation of plumbing, heating, ventilating, air conditioning, or electrical
8 systems, and does include the purchase of an adequate number of chairs with arms
9 so as to accommodate certain users.

10 * * *

11 (4) "Universal design" as more fully defined in Subsection C of this Section,
12 means certain design features, including the use and purchase of certain furniture,
13 that are not currently required by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990,
14 although they may be used to satisfy the Americans with Disabilities Act
15 requirements and when so utilized, the cost may be applied in satisfaction of the two
16 percent monetary requirement of this Section.

17 C. Universal design is a principle of design guiding a wide range of design
18 disciplines including environments, products, and communications including all of
19 the following:

20 * * *

21 (6)(a) Low Physical Effort. The design can be used efficiently and
22 comfortably and with a minimum of fatigue. In terms of the purchase of furniture,
23 this includes the purchase of an adequate number of chairs with arms so as to assist
24 persons with physical disabilities from requiring physical hands-on assistance from
25 others when sitting on or rising from a chair.

26 * * *

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)]

Stuart Bishop

HB No. 200

Abstract: Amends the universal design program whereby a certain percentage of the total cost of the construction or renovation of a state building can be used to purchase arm chairs to meet the requirements of the "Percent for Universal Design Program".

Present law provides for the establishment of the "Percent for Universal Design Program".

Proposed law retains present law.

Present law declares it to be the public policy of the state that a portion of money spent by the state and state agencies on the construction or renovation of state buildings should be spent on implementing principles of universal design. Further provides that in pursuit of the declared policy, the Percent for Universal Design Program is established.

Proposed law retains present law and further declares that a portion of money spent by the state and state agencies on the construction and renovation of state buildings should be spent on purchasing certain furniture to accommodate the seating needs of certain users with physical disabilities.

Present law defines "renovation" as not including a project the principal purpose of which is the rehabilitation of plumbing, heating, ventilating, air conditioning, or electrical systems for purposes of the "Percent for Universal Design Program".

Proposed law retains present law and adds that "renovation" does include the purchase of chairs with arms.

Present law provides for design disciplines and guidelines.

Proposed law retains present law and adds that in terms of the purchase of furniture, the guidelines include the purchase of chairs with arms so as to assist persons with physical disabilities from requiring physical hands-on assistance from others when sitting on or rising from a chair.

(Amends R.S. 38:2318.2(A), (B)(1) and (4), and (C)(6)(a))