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## DIGEST

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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.

Present law provides for the authority of the Council for the Development of French in Louisiana (CODOFIL).

Proposed law provides for the authority of the CODOFIL to provide and approve Louisiana French terms for the bilingual language supplement to be produced by DOTD.

Present law 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.

Proposed law 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.

Proposed law 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, the supplement must be returned to the governing authority of the parish which requested it. The parish governing authorities may adopt the supplement as it was submitted to the U.S. Dept. of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, but are prohibited from erecting such bilingual signs on state or federal highways within the parish.

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

### Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

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

1. Clarified a provision that specifies that if the bilingual supplement is not approved, the U.S. Dept. of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration must return the

supplement to the governing authority of the parish which requested it and that the governing authority may only proceed with local adoption of the supplement as it was submitted to the U.S. Dept. of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, but cannot erect any bilingual sign on any state or federal highway within the parish.

2. Removed the provision that provides for the supplement cost not to exceed MUTCD standards.