

ACT No. 263

Regular Session, 2014

HOUSE BILL NO. 998

BY REPRESENTATIVE ORTEGO AND SENATOR LAFLEUR

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AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 32:235(A) and to enact R.S. 25:651(C)(7), relative to the uniform highway marking system manual and specifications for a uniform system of traffic control devices; to require the Department of Transportation and Development to adopt a supplement and specifications to the manual on uniform traffic control devices permitting parish governing authorities to request bilingual signs on certain roads; to provide guidelines for the supplement to be adopted by the Department of Transportation and Development; to provide for additional authority for the Council for the Development of French in Louisiana; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 25:651(C)(7) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

§651. Creation; domicile; purposes

* * *

C. The purposes of the council shall include the following:

* * *

(7) To provide and approve Louisiana French terms for the supplement to the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) to be placed on bilingual and symbol-based signs to be installed by the Department of Transportation and Development on state and federal highways pursuant to the uniform highway marking system, R.S. 32:235 et seq.

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

2 §235. Uniform highway marking system

3 A. (1) The department shall adopt a manual and specifications for a uniform
 4 system of traffic control devices consistent with the provisions of this Chapter for
 5 use upon highways within this state. Such uniform system shall correlate with and
 6 so far as possible conform to the system then current as approved by the United
 7 States Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, Manual on
 8 Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD), except that the department shall
 9 develop a supplement to the manual with all symbol-based or bilingual signs that
 10 display terms in both English and Louisiana French, subject to approval by the
 11 United States Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, which
 12 permits parish governing authorities to adopt such supplement, request that signs
 13 along state and federal highways within their boundaries be bilingual, and display
 14 terms in both English and Louisiana French. In developing the supplement, the
 15 department shall adhere to the following:

16 (2) The department shall coordinate with the Council for the Development
 17 of French in Louisiana pursuant to R.S. 25:651 et seq., prior to application for
 18 approval from the United States Department of Transportation, Federal Highway
 19 Administration.

20 (3) The supplement shall provide a process by which a parish governing
 21 authority may formally adopt the supplement. In the event the United States
 22 Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration does not approve
 23 the bilingual supplement, it shall be returned to the governing authority of the parish
 24 which requested approval of a bilingual supplement. The parish governing authority
 25 may only proceed with local adoption of the supplement as it was submitted to the
 26 United States Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration but
 27 shall not erect any bilingual sign on any state or federal highway within the parish;
 28 signs installed on parish roads shall be at the expense of the parish.

29 (4) ~~provided that the~~ The department is authorized to ~~may~~ deviate from said
 30 the system and to erect advisory signs only to post advisory weight limits on state

1 bridges where a state bridge is scheduled for replacement or strengthening within
 2 three years from the date of approval by the chief engineer of the department's
 3 weight rating evaluation of any state bridge. In addition, the department may deviate
 4 from the criteria contained in said system for location of traffic signals to the extent
 5 that additional weighted consideration shall be given to pedestrian and vehicular
 6 traffic volumes associated with schools which are located on state highways.

7 (5) The department shall require that any signage on public highways which
 8 indicates maximum or minimum speed limits in kilometers also indicate such speed
 9 limits in miles per hour.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____