



MEMORANDUM OF SUPPORT: S.2269/A.4628

March 25, 2025

BILL NUMBER: S.2269 (Hoylman-Sigal) same as A.4628 (Seawright)

TITLE OF BILL: An act to amend the general business law, in relation to requiring certain motion picture theaters to provide scheduled showings of motion pictures with open motion picture captioning.

PURPOSE OF BILL: Requires a motion picture theater that offers more than ten motion picture showings per week to provide scheduled showings of motion pictures with open motion picture captioning such that at least one quarter of all showings of a motion picture with four or more showings during a one-week time period shall have open motion picture captioning; provides exceptions and penalties for violations.

STATEMENT OF SUPPORT: The National Institute on Aging estimates that one-third of older adults have hearing loss.¹ For these older adults to enjoy their movie-going experience, they often must rely on closed captioning devices, such as captioning stands or glasses. In some instances, these devices do not work correctly, or the theater does not have enough devices for everyone who requests one, leaving the viewer without assistive technology to watch the movie. Even when the devices are working, this can lead to fatigue for the user, who has to look back and forth from the device to the movie. Further, older adults who could benefit from closed captioning may not be aware that these devices are available.

Open captioning allows all viewers to watch the movie with captioning, which is more accessible, inclusive, and enjoyable for people of all ages and abilities. This is a simple solution that requires no additional technology, providing for a seamless movie-going experience. This legislation is consistent with AARP's age-friendly principles, as it allows for intergenerational enjoyment of social activities.

AARP New York supports S.2269 (Hoylman-Sigal)/A.4628 (Seawright) as it will enhance the movie-going experience for older adults with hearing loss, without the need for additional, disruptive technology.

For the above reasons, AARP strongly supports this legislation.

Please contact Bill Ferris or Kristen McManus at (518) 434-4194 with any questions.

¹ <https://www.nia.nih.gov/health/hearing-and-hearing-loss/hearing-loss-common-problem-older-adults>