



In November 2018, a request for information was posted to the electronic discussion group of the Legislative Information and Communication Staff about closed captioning and online streaming. The specific questions were:

- 1) Does your chamber provide closed captioning for your online streaming?
- 2) If so, does this extend to committees?
- 3) If so, how much are you paying for the service?

Shown below is a summary of the responses.

Alabama – House

1. No. The Alabama House of Representatives only streams audio not video.
2. No. We only stream audio from the House Chamber not committee rooms.
3. N/A

Arizona – Senate and House

We don't provide closed captioning for online or tv broadcasts for the chamber or committees.

Arkansas – Senate

We are in the process of having live streaming installed. Closed caption is not in the plan as of now

California – Assembly

1. Yes
2. Yes
3. I don't know.

Connecticut – Senate and House

We do not provide closed caption on our online streaming. We do typically provide it on our TV coverage although our new TV contract does not include it. We are looking at other options.

Delaware – Senate

Our Chamber only offers audio streaming online, so all answers are N/A.

Georgia – Senate

The Georgia Senate Press Office is a non-partisan press and media relations resource for all 56 Senators both during and outside of the state legislative session. Each Senator is assigned a press representative from the Senate Press Office to assist in drafting press releases, media advisories, opinion pieces and newsletter/newspaper columns. In addition, these press representatives are available to provide communications strategy and insight for high-profile projects, act as a media liaison between the Senator and the Capitol Press Corps, provide media training and public speaking coaching, share social media best practices and produce, cut and edit videos. Our office also handles the livestream for the Senate Chamber and all Senate Committee Meetings. Additionally, our office handles the official Twitter,

Instagram and Facebook account for the Georgia Senate. Along with livestreaming the chamber and committee meetings, we live tweet them as well.

We have four full-time staff members and then hire two communication aides, one broadcast aide and a photographer during session which typically runs from the 2nd Monday in January to mid-April.

Hawaii – *House*

We do not provide closed captioning on our streaming

Illinois – *Senate*

1. No

Iowa – *Senate*

We do not do closed captioning.

Kansas – *House*

Just last year Speaker Ryckman implemented video live-streaming in the House Chamber. We also have video live-streaming in our largest committee room and are working on others now. We do not currently provide closed-captioning. We currently provide audio live-streaming for all of our committee rooms.

Kentucky – *Senate and House*

1. No
2. No
3. NA

Maine – *Senate and House*

1. No
2. No
3. N/A

Minnesota – *Senate and House*

1. Captioning is provided on both the Minnesota House and Minnesota Senate webcasts. Caption services are arranged by the Minnesota Legislative Coordinating Commission as a service to joint activities of the House and Senate.
2. Captions are also provided for webcast of committee meetings.
3. Caption cost range from \$60/hour to \$70/hour depending on vendor, etc.

Montana – *Senate and House*

Montana Legislature does not currently offer closed captioning for any of our Legislative hearings. We have a proposed solution that we are working on.

Nebraska

We close caption legislative floor debate but it's done through our state public broadcasting system. We also stream floor debate but it is not captioned. With respect to committees we stream them but do not broadcast. We currently do not close caption hearings. I worry about that. Currently NET (public broadcasting station) pays for the closed captioning of legislative floor debate.

Oklahoma – *House*

1. Yes, all of our daily floor sessions are closed captioned.
2. Not at the moment, but we plan on having this option available in the 2019 session.
3. Our streaming service is provided by Sliq, and they also do our closed captioning. In 2016 we only captioned the second session of the 55th legislature. This cost \$23,954. In 2017-18 we captioned both

regular sessions and both special sessions. This cost \$60,050. Estimating off last year's committees we are estimating that adding committees will add an additional \$15,000.

Rhode Island – Senate and House

As of now we only provide closed captioning to our TV station. But starting soon we will be providing closed captioning to our Chamber web stream coverage only, hopefully by mid-January. We are still working out the price, but it isn't cheap. Hope this helps.

Virginia – House

1. The Virginia House of Delegates provides closed captioning on all video streams of Floor Sessions as well as Full Committee meetings. It is also available on archived video.
2. Yes
3. The cost of closed captioning is an hourly cost, with some guaranteed minimum hours for captioners scheduled to handle afternoon committee meetings to account for last-minute cancellations or changes in start times. The hourly rate for any of the captioners averages out to about \$110/hour. Archived video has the captioned feed on it at no additional cost.

Washington – House

I asked and was told that we don't have any closed captioning services for Floor action or committee hearings as it is very expensive.

Most of our floor action and committee meetings are live streamed by [TVW](#) (Washington's equivalent to CSPAN). I don't know if the live stream has captioning. (There isn't anything livestreaming right now for me to check.) TVW also airs floor action and committee meetings live and delayed on their cable channel which is carried by Comcast. I believe those versions are closed captioned.

West Virginia – Senate and House

We currently do not and would like to utilize closed captioning in our online streams.