

HOUSE No. 196

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

David Henry Argosky LeBoeuf

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act relative to public accommodations for individuals with verbal communication impairments.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>David Henry Argosky LeBoeuf</i>	<i>17th Worcester</i>	<i>1/13/2023</i>
<i>Vanna Howard</i>	<i>17th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/31/2023</i>
<i>Colleen M. Garry</i>	<i>36th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/16/2023</i>

HOUSE No. 196

By Representative LeBoeuf of Worcester, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 196) of David Henry Argosky LeBoeuf, Vanna Howard and Colleen M. Garry relative to public accommodations for individuals with verbal communication impairments. Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE HOUSE, NO. 4027 OF 2021-2022.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

—————
**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Third General Court
(2023-2024)**
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An Act relative to public accommodations for individuals with verbal communication impairments.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 Chapter 140 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after section 6B the
2 following section:-

3 Section 6C. (a) As used in this section, the following words shall, unless the context
4 clearly requires otherwise, have the following meanings:

5 “Department”, the department of public health.

6 “Photographic or visual menu”, a menu that contains a written description accompanied
7 by a photograph each food and drink item to assist individuals with communication impairments
8 with ordering food and drink.

9 (b) A person licensed as an innholder or common victualler, when serving food, shall: (i)
10 maintain on the premises for availability upon customer request a set of photographic or visual
11 menus and (ii) include on all menus a notice to customers informing them of the availability of a
12 photographic or visual menu for customers with communication impairments, the language of
13 the notice shall be developed by the department in consultation with the department of
14 developmental services, the Massachusetts Restaurant Association and Arc Massachusetts, Inc..

15 (c) The department shall develop a program for restaurants to be designated as
16 “Communication Impairment Friendly” and shall maintain a listing of restaurants receiving that
17 designation on its website. Participation in the program shall be voluntary and the department, in
18 consultation with the Massachusetts Restaurant Association, shall issue guidelines and
19 requirements for restaurants to receive the designation; provided that the requirements shall
20 include, but not be limited to, maintaining on the premises and making available to the public, a
21 set of photographic or visual menus.

22 (d) The department may adopt regulations to implement the provisions of this section.