

SENATE BILL 446

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4lr1741
CF HB 396

By: Senators Conway, Benson, Dyson, Ferguson, Forehand, Frosh, Jennings,
Jones-Rodwell, King, Klausmeier, Montgomery, Pinsky, Pugh, Raskin,
Reilly, Rosapepe, Shank, Simonaire, Stone, and Young

Introduced and read first time: January 24, 2014

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: March 11, 2014

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 ~~Commission on~~ **Department of Disabilities – Study of Accessibility Concepts**
3 **in Computer Science, Information Systems, and Information Technology**
4 **Programs in Higher Education**

5 FOR the purpose of ~~establishing the Commission on Accessibility Concepts in~~
6 ~~Computer Science, Information Systems, and Information Technology Programs~~
7 ~~in Higher Education; providing for the composition, chair, and staffing of the~~
8 ~~Commission; prohibiting a member of the Commission from receiving certain~~
9 ~~compensation, but authorizing the reimbursement of certain expenses;~~
10 ~~requiring the Commission~~ requiring the Department of Disabilities, in
11 cooperation with the National Federation of the Blind, to study and make
12 recommendations regarding certain matters accessibility concepts in computer
13 science, information systems, and information technology programs in higher
14 education; requiring the ~~Commission~~ Department to submit a preliminary
15 report and a final report of its findings and recommendations to the Governor
16 and certain committees of the General Assembly on or before certain dates;
17 providing for the termination of this Act; defining a certain term; and generally
18 relating to the ~~Commission on Accessibility Concepts in Computer Science,~~
19 ~~Information Systems, and Information Technology Programs in Higher~~
20 ~~Education~~ study of accessibility concepts in computer science, information
21 systems, and information technology programs in higher education.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



1 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
2 MARYLAND, That:

3 ~~(a) There is a Commission on Accessibility Concepts in Computer Science,~~
4 ~~Information Systems, and Information Technology Programs in Higher Education.~~

5 ~~(b) The Commission consists of the following members:~~

6 ~~(1) one member of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President~~
7 ~~of the Senate;~~

8 ~~(2) one member of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of~~
9 ~~the House;~~

10 ~~(3) the Secretary of Information Technology, or the Secretary's~~
11 ~~designee;~~

12 ~~(4) the Secretary of Higher Education, or the Secretary's designee;~~

13 ~~(5) the Executive Director of the Maryland Technology Assistance~~
14 ~~Program, or the Executive Director's designee; and~~

15 ~~(6) the following members, appointed by the Governor:~~

16 ~~(i) one member who is blind or visually impaired, appointed in~~
17 ~~consultation with the National Federation of the Blind;~~

18 ~~(ii) one professor of computer science at an institution of higher~~
19 ~~education in the State, appointed in consultation with the University System of~~
20 ~~Maryland;~~

21 ~~(iii) one professor of information systems at an institution of~~
22 ~~higher education in the State, appointed in consultation with the University System of~~
23 ~~Maryland;~~

24 ~~(iv) one professor of information technology at an institution of~~
25 ~~higher education in the State, appointed in consultation with the University System of~~
26 ~~Maryland;~~

27 ~~(v) one representative of a community college in the State,~~
28 ~~appointed in consultation with the Maryland Association of Community Colleges;~~

29 ~~(vi) one representative of Morgan State University;~~

30 ~~(vii) one representative of St. Mary's College of Maryland;~~

1 ~~(viii) one representative of the Maryland Independent College and~~
2 ~~University Association;~~

3 ~~(ix) two university provosts from the University System of~~
4 ~~Maryland Academic Affairs Advisory Council;~~

5 ~~(x) one representative of the Maryland Disabilities Law Center;~~

6 ~~(xi) one student enrolled in a program of study that focuses on~~
7 ~~computer science, information systems, or information technology; and~~

8 ~~(xii) one representative of a company that provides Web site~~
9 ~~design services to private businesses in the State.~~

10 ~~(e) The Governor shall designate the chair of the Commission.~~

11 ~~(d) The Department of Information Technology, in coordination with the~~
12 ~~Maryland Technology Assistance Program, shall provide staff for the Commission.~~

13 ~~(e) A member of the Commission:~~

14 ~~(1) may not receive compensation as a member of the Commission; but~~

15 ~~(2) is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard~~
16 ~~State Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.~~

17 (a) The Department of Disabilities, in cooperation with the National
18 Federation of the Blind, shall study accessibility concepts in computer science,
19 information systems, and information technology programs in higher education.

20 (b) As part of the study, the Department shall convene a workgroup that
21 consists of:

22 (1) provosts, Chief Information Officers, and faculty members in
23 computer science, information systems, and information technology programs in
24 higher education from:

25 (i) the University System of Maryland;

26 (ii) Morgan State University;

27 (iii) St. Mary's College of Maryland;

28 (iv) private nonprofit institutions of higher education in the
29 State; and

30 (v) community colleges; and

1 (2) members who are:

2 (i) accessibility experts;

3 (ii) web developers; and

4 (iii) any other individuals with knowledge that would benefit the
5 Department in its study.

6 ~~(c)~~ (1) In this subsection, ~~“Web accessibility” means the practice of~~
7 ~~making Web sites useable by individuals of all abilities and disabilities~~ accessibility”
8 means fully and equally accessible to and independently usable by individuals with
9 disabilities so that the individuals are able to acquire the same information, engage in
10 the same interactions, and enjoy the same services as users without disabilities, with
11 substantially equivalent ease of use.

12 (2) The ~~Commission~~ Department shall:

13 (i) compile existing information on and identify any gaps in the
14 current course offerings for ~~Web~~ accessibility to information technologies in
15 institutions of higher education in the State;

16 (ii) if gaps in the course offerings for ~~Web~~ accessibility to
17 information technologies are found:

18 1. determine what is needed to close the gaps; and

19 2. determine the State and local cost of each proposal to
20 close the gaps; and

21 (iii) make recommendations on:

22 1. the appropriate number of course offerings for ~~Web~~
23 accessibility to information technologies, including proposals for additional course
24 offerings, if necessary;

25 2. funding requirements and budgetary priorities to
26 address the issues raised by the proposals considered by the ~~Commission~~ Department;

27 3. legislation and policy initiatives to address the issues
28 raised by the proposals considered by the ~~Commission~~ Department; and

29 4. any other relevant issues considered by the
30 ~~Commission~~ Department.

1 ~~(e)~~ (d) (1) On or before December 15, 2015, the ~~Commission~~ Department
2 shall submit a preliminary report of its findings and recommendations to the Governor
3 and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, the Senate
4 Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee and the House Committee
5 on Ways and Means.

6 (2) On or before June 30, 2017, the ~~Commission~~ Department shall
7 submit a final report of its findings and recommendations to the Governor and, in
8 accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, the Senate Education,
9 Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee and the House Committee on Ways and
10 Means.

11 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
12 July 1, 2014. It shall remain effective for a period of 3 years and, at the end of June 30,
13 2017, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be
14 abrogated and of no further force and effect.

Approved:

Governor.

President of the Senate.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.