

# HOUSE BILL 1140

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CF SB 439

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By: **Delegates Platt, Cullison, Hill, and Metzgar**

Introduced and read first time: February 9, 2017

Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **State Procurement – Information Technology – Nonvisual Access**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the Secretary of Information Technology to appoint an access  
4 technology officer in accordance with certain requirements; establishing the duties  
5 of the access technology officer; requiring the access technology officer to develop a  
6 provision for inclusion in all State procurement contracts that requires a certain  
7 determination to be made within a certain amount of time; requiring an access  
8 technology officer to notify a certain vendor under certain circumstances; providing  
9 that a certain vendor may be subject to a certain civil penalty under certain  
10 circumstances; requiring a certain vendor that is found in violation of a certain  
11 requirement to indemnify the State from liability under certain circumstances;  
12 requiring the access technology officer, along with other parties, to develop a  
13 nonvisual access clause in accordance with certain requirements; altering a certain  
14 exemption from the nonvisual access clause requirement; requiring the Department,  
15 on or before a certain date, to adopt new nonvisual access procurement standards  
16 that are consistent with certain federal standards; altering a certain definition; and  
17 generally relating to information technology and nonvisual access.

18 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
19 Article – State Finance and Procurement  
20 Section 3A–301, 3A–303, and 3A–311  
21 Annotated Code of Maryland  
22 (2015 Replacement Volume and 2016 Supplement)

23 BY adding to  
24 Article – State Finance and Procurement  
25 Section 3A–303.1  
26 Annotated Code of Maryland  
27 (2015 Replacement Volume and 2016 Supplement)

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,  
2 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

3 **Article – State Finance and Procurement**

4 3A–301.

5 (a) In this subtitle the following words have the meanings indicated.

6 (b) (1) “Development” means all expenditures for a new information  
7 technology system or an enhancement to an existing system including system:

8 (i) planning;

9 (ii) procurement;

10 (iii) creation;

11 (iv) installation;

12 (v) testing; and

13 (vi) initial training.

14 (2) “Development” does not include:

15 (i) ongoing operating costs, software or hardware maintenance,  
16 routine upgrades, or modifications that merely allow for a continuation of the existing level  
17 of functionality; or

18 (ii) expenditures made after a new or enhanced system has been  
19 legally accepted by the user and is being used for the business process for which it was  
20 intended.

21 (c) “Fund” means the Major Information Technology Development Project Fund.

22 (d) “Information technology” means all electronic information processing  
23 hardware and software, including:

24 (1) maintenance;

25 (2) telecommunications; and

26 (3) associated consulting services.

27 (e) “Information technology services” means information provided by electronic  
28 means by or on behalf of a unit of State government.

1 (f) “Major information technology development project” means any information  
2 technology development project that meets one or more of the following criteria:

3 (1) the estimated total cost of development equals or exceeds \$1,000,000;

4 (2) the project is undertaken to support a critical business function  
5 associated with the public health, education, safety, or financial well-being of the citizens  
6 of Maryland; or

7 (3) the Secretary determines that the project requires the special attention  
8 and consideration given to a major information technology development project due to:

9 (i) the significance of the project’s potential benefits or risks;

10 (ii) the impact of the project on the public or local governments;

11 (iii) the public visibility of the project; or

12 (iv) other reasons as determined by the Secretary.

13 (g) “Master plan” means the statewide information technology master plan.

14 (h) “Nonvisual access” means the ability[, through keyboard control, synthesized  
15 speech, Braille, or other methods not requiring sight] to receive, use, and manipulate  
16 information and operate controls necessary to access information technology **IN A WAY  
17 THAT IS FULLY AND EQUALLY ACCESSIBLE TO AND INDEPENDENTLY USABLE BY  
18 INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES, SO THAT THEY ARE ABLE TO ACQUIRE THE SAME  
19 INFORMATION, ENGAGE IN THE SAME INTERACTIONS, AND ENJOY THE SAME  
20 SERVICES AS USERS WITHOUT DISABILITIES, WITH SUBSTANTIALLY EQUIVALENT  
21 EASE OF USE, USING THE STANDARDS OF SECTION 508 OF THE FEDERAL  
22 REHABILITATION ACT OF 1973.**

23 (i) “Resource sharing” means the utilization of a State resource by private  
24 industry in exchange for the provision to the State of a communication service or other  
25 consideration.

26 (j) “Systems development life cycle plan” means a plan that defines all actions,  
27 functions, or activities to be performed by a unit of State government in the definition,  
28 planning, acquisition, development, testing, implementation, operation, enhancement, and  
29 modification of information technology systems.

30 3A-303.

31 The Secretary is responsible for carrying out the following duties:

1 (1) developing, maintaining, revising, and enforcing information  
2 technology policies, procedures, and standards;

3 (2) providing technical assistance, advice, and recommendations to the  
4 Governor and any unit of State government concerning information technology matters;

5 (3) reviewing the annual project plan for each unit of State government to  
6 make information and services available to the public over the Internet;

7 (4) developing and maintaining a statewide information technology master  
8 plan that will:

9 (i) be the basis for the management and direction of information  
10 technology within the Executive Branch of State government;

11 (ii) include all aspects of State information technology including  
12 telecommunications, data processing, and information management;

13 (iii) consider interstate transfers as a result of federal legislation and  
14 regulation;

15 (iv) work jointly with the Secretary of Budget and Management to  
16 ensure that information technology plans and budgets are consistent;

17 (v) ensure that State information technology plans, policies, and  
18 standards are consistent with State goals, objectives, and resources, and represent a  
19 long-range vision for using information technology to improve the overall effectiveness of  
20 State government; and

21 (vi) include standards to assure nonvisual access to the information  
22 and services made available to the public over the Internet; [and]

23 (5) adopting by regulation and enforcing nonvisual access standards to be  
24 used in the procurement of information technology services by or on behalf of units of State  
25 government; AND

26 **(6) APPOINTING AN ACCESS TECHNOLOGY OFFICER.**

27 **3A-303.1.**

28 **(A) THE ACCESS TECHNOLOGY OFFICER IS RESPONSIBLE FOR:**

29 **(1) BEING DIRECTLY FAMILIAR WITH THE USE OF NONVISUAL ACCESS**  
30 **TECHNOLOGY SOFTWARE AND KNOWLEDGEABLE ABOUT INDUSTRY-ACCEPTED**  
31 **ACCESSIBILITY GUIDELINES, INCLUDING THE STANDARDS OF SECTION 508 OF THE**

1 **FEDERAL REHABILITATION ACT OF 1973 AND THE WORLD WIDE WEB CONSORTIUM**  
2 **WEB CONTENT ACCESSIBILITY GUIDELINES;**

3 **(2) ENSURING THAT TECHNOLOGY PROCURED BY THE STATE IS**  
4 **ACCESSIBLE BY:**

5 **(I) DEVELOPING, IMPLEMENTING, AND MAINTAINING AN**  
6 **INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY ACCESSIBILITY POLICY;**

7 **(II) ESTABLISHING AND MAINTAINING, IN CONSULTATION WITH**  
8 **THE SECRETARY, AN ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE THAT ENABLES AND**  
9 **FACILITATES PROGRESS IN INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY**  
10 **ACCESSIBILITY;**

11 **(III) INTEGRATING INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS**  
12 **TECHNOLOGY ACCESSIBILITY CRITERIA INTO KEY PHASES OF DEVELOPMENT,**  
13 **PROCUREMENT, ACQUISITIONS, AND OTHER RELEVANT BUSINESS PROCESSES;**

14 **(IV) PROVIDING A PROCESS FOR ADDRESSING INACCESSIBLE**  
15 **INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY;**

16 **(V) ENSURING THE AVAILABILITY OF RELEVANT INFORMATION**  
17 **AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY ACCESSIBILITY SKILLS AND OTHER**  
18 **RESOURCES WITHIN THE ORGANIZATION; AND**

19 **(VI) MAKING INFORMATION REGARDING INFORMATION AND**  
20 **COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY ACCESSIBILITY POLICY, PLANS, AND PROGRESS**  
21 **AVAILABLE TO CUSTOMERS;**

22 **(3) CONDUCTING HANDS-ON TESTING OF BOTH EMPLOYEE AND**  
23 **PUBLIC-FACING ELECTRONIC INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY PRODUCTS TO CONFIRM**  
24 **THE PRODUCT'S CONFORMANCE TO APPLICABLE ACCESSIBILITY GUIDELINES FOR**  
25 **WEB-BASED APPLICATIONS ACCORDING TO WORLD WIDE WEB CONSORTIUM WEB**  
26 **CONTENT ACCESSIBILITY GUIDELINES 2.0 LEVEL AA;**

27 **(4) USING RELEVANT FUNCTIONAL ACCESS GUIDELINES AS ADOPTED**  
28 **BY THE U.S. ACCESS BOARD, WHICH INCORPORATE THE CORE PRINCIPLES OF**  
29 **SECTION 508 OF THE FEDERAL REHABILITATION ACT OF 1973 FOR**  
30 **NON-WEB-BASED SOFTWARE OR HARDWARE;**

31 **(5) ENSURING THAT EMPLOYEES WITH DISABILITIES WHO USE**  
32 **ACCESS TECHNOLOGY SOFTWARE HAVE ACCESS TO THE TRAINING NECESSARY TO**  
33 **ENSURE PROFICIENCY WITH THE ACCESS TECHNOLOGY SOFTWARE AND THE**

1 ELECTRONIC INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY REQUIRED TO PERFORM THE  
2 RESPONSIBILITIES REQUIRED OF THEIR POSITIONS; AND

3 (6) REVIEWING ALL STATE PROCUREMENT CONTRACTS FOR  
4 PURCHASE OF ELECTRONIC INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY PRODUCTS TO DETERMINE  
5 WHETHER THERE ARE ANY BARRIERS TO ACCESS IN ACCORDANCE WITH  
6 SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION.

7 (B) (1) THE ACCESS TECHNOLOGY OFFICER SHALL DEVELOP A  
8 PROVISION FOR INCLUSION IN ALL STATE PROCUREMENT CONTRACTS THAT  
9 REQUIRES A DETERMINATION BY THE ACCESS TECHNOLOGY OFFICER WITHIN 18  
10 MONTHS FROM CONTRACT COMMENCEMENT OF A BARRIER TO ACCESS ELECTRONIC  
11 INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY PRODUCTS.

12 (2) IF THE ACCESS TECHNOLOGY OFFICER DETERMINES THAT AN  
13 ACCESS BARRIER IS PRESENT, THE ACCESS TECHNOLOGY OFFICER SHALL NOTIFY  
14 THE VENDOR IN WRITING AND REQUIRE THE VENDOR, AT THE VENDOR'S OWN  
15 EXPENSE, TO REMEDY THE DEFECT WITHIN 12 MONTHS.

16 (C) (1) IF THE VENDOR FAILS TO REMEDY THE ACCESS BARRIER WITHIN  
17 12 MONTHS FROM THE DATE OF THE NOTIFICATION REQUIRED UNDER SUBSECTION  
18 (B)(2) OF THIS SECTION, THE VENDOR MAY BE SUBJECT TO A CIVIL PENALTY  
19 APPLIED AT THE RATE OF 1% OF THE TOTAL PURCHASE PRICE OF THE CONTRACT  
20 FOR EACH DAY UNTIL THE PROBLEM IS REMEDIATED OR UNTIL THE FULL PRICE OF  
21 THE CONTRACT IS REFUNDED.

22 (2) A VENDOR THAT IS FOUND IN VIOLATION UNDER PARAGRAPH (1)  
23 OF THIS SUBSECTION IS REQUIRED TO INDEMNIFY THE STATE FOR LIABILITY  
24 RESULTING FROM THE USE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY THAT IS FOUND TO BE  
25 INACCESSIBLE AFTER THE VENDOR HAS BEEN GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO REMEDY  
26 THE ACCESS BARRIER.

27 3A-311.

28 (a) The Secretary AND ACCESS TECHNOLOGY OFFICER, in consultation with  
29 other units of State government, and after public comment, shall develop a nonvisual access  
30 clause for use in the procurement of information technology and information technology  
31 services that specifies that the technology and services:

32 (1) must provide equivalent access for effective use by both visual and  
33 nonvisual means;

34 (2) will present information, including prompts used for interactive  
35 communications, in formats intended for both visual and nonvisual use;

1 (3) can be integrated into networks for obtaining, retrieving, and  
2 disseminating information used by individuals who are not blind or visually impaired; and

3 (4) shall be obtained, whenever possible, without modification for  
4 compatibility with software and hardware for nonvisual access.

5 (b) (1) Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, the nonvisual  
6 access clause required under subsection (a) of this section shall be included in each  
7 invitation for bids or request for proposals and in each procurement contract or modification  
8 of a contract issued under Title 13 of this article, without regard to the method chosen  
9 under Title 13, Subtitle 1 of this article for the purchase of new or upgraded information  
10 technology and information technology services.

11 (2) Except as provided in subsection (a)(4) of this section, the nonvisual  
12 access clause required under paragraph (1) of this subsection is not required if:

13 (i) the information technology is not available with nonvisual access  
14 because the essential elements of the information technology are visual and nonvisual  
15 equivalence cannot be developed; or

16 (ii) the cost of modifying the information technology for compatibility  
17 with software and hardware for nonvisual access would increase the price of the  
18 procurement by more than ~~[5%]~~ 15%.

19 **(C) ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 1, 2018, THE DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION**  
20 **TECHNOLOGY SHALL ADOPT NEW NONVISUAL ACCESS PROCUREMENT STANDARDS**  
21 **THAT ARE CONSISTENT WITH THE STANDARDS OF SECTION 508 OF THE FEDERAL**  
22 **REHABILITATION ACT OF 1973.**

23 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
24 October 1, 2017.