



General Assembly

January Session, 2001

Raised Bill No. 7006

LCO No. 4637

Referred to Committee on Government Administration and Elections

Introduced by:
(GAE)

AN ACT CONCERNING ACCESS BY PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES TO STATE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 4d-1 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

3 As used in this chapter and section 3 of this act:

4 (1) "Architecture" means the defined structure or orderly
5 arrangement of information systems and telecommunication systems,
6 based on accepted industry standards and guidelines, for the purpose
7 of maximizing (1) the interconnection and efficiency of such systems,
8 [and] (2) the ability of users to share information resources, and (3) the
9 accessibility of such systems and resources by persons with
10 disabilities.

11 (2) "Information systems" means the combination of data processing
12 hardware and software in the collection, processing and distribution of
13 data to and from interactive computer-based systems to meet
14 informational needs.

15 (3) "State agency" means each department, board, council,
16 commission, institution or other agency of the Executive Department
17 of the state government, provided each board, council, commission,
18 institution or other agency included by law within any given
19 department shall be deemed a division of that department. The term
20 "state agency" shall include (A) the offices of the Governor, Lieutenant
21 Governor, Treasurer, Attorney General, Secretary of the State and
22 Comptroller and (B) all operations of an Executive Department agency
23 which are funded by either the General Fund or a special fund.

24 (4) "Telecommunication systems" means telephone equipment and
25 transmission facilities, either alone or in combination with information
26 systems, for the electronic distribution of all forms of information,
27 including voice, data and images.

28 (5) "Chief Information Officer" means the department head for the
29 Department of Information Technology.

30 (6) "Person with disabilities" means a person who (A) has a physical
31 or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more of the
32 major life activities of such individual, (B) has a record of such an
33 impairment, or (C) is regarded as having such an impairment.

34 Sec. 2. Subsection (a) of section 4d-7 of the general statutes is
35 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof:

36 (a) The Chief Information Officer shall develop, publish and
37 annually update an information and telecommunication systems
38 strategic plan which shall have the following goals: (1) To provide a
39 level of voice and data communications service among all state
40 agencies that will ensure the effective and efficient completion of their
41 respective functions; (2) to establish a direction for the collection,
42 storage, management and use of information by state agencies in an
43 efficient manner; (3) to develop a comprehensive information policy
44 for state agencies that clearly articulates (A) the state's commitment to
45 the sharing of its information resources, (B) the relationship of such

46 resources to library and other information resources in the state, and
47 (C) a philosophy of equal access to information; (4) to provide all
48 necessary telecommunication services between state agencies and the
49 public; (5) to provide, in the event of an emergency, immediate voice
50 and data communications capabilities which are necessary to support
51 state agency functions; [and] (6) to provide necessary access to higher
52 technology for state agencies; and (7) make information systems,
53 telecommunication systems and information resources accessible by
54 persons with disabilities.

55 Sec. 3. (NEW) (a) As used in this subsection, "ConneCT
56 Management Advisory Committee" means the committee that
57 manages the official State of Connecticut Website and is coordinated
58 by the Office of Policy and Management and sponsored by the
59 Department of Information Technology.

60 (b) Not later than October 1, 2002, (1) each state agency shall comply
61 with the Universal Web Site Accessibility Policy for State Web Sites
62 established and amended from time to time by the ConneCT
63 Management Advisory Committee and (2) the Chief Information
64 Officer of the Department of Information Technology shall certify each
65 such agency which has complied with said policy. If the Chief
66 Information Officer determines that a state agency has not complied by
67 said date, the Chief Information Officer shall develop a plan and
68 timetable for said agency's compliance and may recommend to the
69 Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management that a portion of the
70 agency's funding for information technology be allocated for said
71 compliance.

72 (c) Not later than January 1, 2003, the Chief Information Officer shall
73 submit a report on the status of state agency compliance with said
74 policy to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having
75 cognizance of matters relating to government administration.

76 (d) Not later than October 1, 2002, the Legislative Department and
77 the Judicial Department shall also comply with said Universal Web

78 Site Accessibility Policy for State Web Sites. Not later than January 1,
79 2003, the executive director of the Joint Committee on Legislative
80 Management and the Chief Court Administrator shall each submit a
81 report on his or her department's compliance with said policy, to the
82 joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance
83 of matters relating to government administration.

84 (e) Any person with disabilities may file a complaint with the Office
85 of Protection and Advocacy for Persons with Disabilities, concerning
86 the accessibility of information and telecommunication systems and
87 information resources of a state agency, the Legislative Department or
88 the Judicial Department. The director of said office may investigate
89 such complaints under the authority granted to the director under
90 subdivision (4) of section 46a-11 of the general statutes. If, pursuant to
91 any such investigation, the director finds a pattern of noncompliance
92 by a state agency or one of said departments with the Universal Web
93 Site Accessibility Policy for State Web Sites, the director shall (1) in the
94 case of a state agency, submit a report on such findings to the Chief
95 Information Officer, (2) in the case of the Legislative Department,
96 submit a report on such findings to the executive director of the Joint
97 Committee on Legislative Management or (3) in the case of the Judicial
98 Department, submit a report on such findings to the Chief Court
99 Administrator.

Statement of Purpose:

To ensure equal access by persons with disabilities to state information technology.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]