



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 7006

January Session, 2001

**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 Section 4d-1 of the general statutes is repealed and the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 (A) the interconnection and efficiency of such systems,
8 [and] (B) the ability of users to share information resources, and (C) 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35 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof: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) Not later than October 1, 2002, (1) each state
56 agency shall comply with the Universal Web Site Accessibility Policy
57 for State Web Sites approved by the Department of Information
58 Technology, and (2) the Chief Information Officer of the Department of
59 Information Technology shall certify each such agency that has
60 complied with said policy. If the Chief Information Officer determines
61 that a state agency has not complied by said date, the Chief
62 Information Officer shall develop a plan and timetable for said
63 agency's compliance and may recommend to the Secretary of the
64 Office of Policy and Management that a portion of the agency's
65 funding for information technology be allocated for said compliance.

66 (b) Not later than January 1, 2003, the Chief Information Officer
67 shall submit a report on the status of state agency compliance with said
68 policy to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having
69 cognizance of matters relating to government administration.

70 (c) Not later than October 1, 2002, the Legislative Department and
71 the Judicial Department shall comply with said Universal Web Site
72 Accessibility Policy for State Web Sites. Not later than January 1, 2003,
73 the executive director of the Joint Committee on Legislative
74 Management and the Chief Court Administrator shall each submit a
75 report on his or her department's compliance with said policy, to the
76 joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance
77 of matters relating to government administration.

78 (d) Any person with disabilities may file a complaint with the Office
79 of Protection and Advocacy for Persons with Disabilities, concerning
80 the accessibility of information systems, telecommunication systems
81 and information resources of a state agency, the Legislative
82 Department or the Judicial Department. The director of said office may

83 investigate such complaints under the authority granted to the director
84 under subdivision (4) of section 46a-11 of the general statutes and may
85 consult with state agencies concerning technical questions in the
86 course of any such investigation. If, pursuant to any such investigation,
87 the director finds a pattern of noncompliance by a state agency or one
88 of said departments with said Universal Web Site Accessibility Policy
89 for State Web Sites, the director shall (1) in the case of a state agency,
90 submit a report on such findings to the Chief Information Officer, (2) in
91 the case of the Legislative Department, submit a report on such
92 findings to the executive director of the Joint Committee on Legislative
93 Management, or (3) in the case of the Judicial Department, submit a
94 report on such findings to the Chief Court Administrator.

95 (e) The provisions of this section shall not limit the powers and
96 duties of the director of the Office of Protection and Advocacy for
97 Persons with Disabilities under section 46a-11 of the general statutes or
98 as otherwise established by law.

GAE *Joint Favorable Subst.*