

The Connecticut General Assembly

Joint Committee on Legislative Management

Donald E. Williams, Jr.
Senate President Pro Tempore

Martin M. Looney, *Senate Majority Leader*
Louis C. DeLuca, *Senate Republican Leader*

D'Ann Mazzocca, Ph.D.
Executive Director



Moira K. Lyons
Speaker of the House

James A. Amann, *House Majority Leader*
Robert M. Ward, *House Minority Leader*

November 9, 2004

TO: Senator Joseph Crisco
Representative Melody Currey
Co-Chairs, Legislative Process Advisory Committee

FROM: D'Ann Mazzocca
Executive Director

RE: The Capitol Complex and ADA Compliance

Overall, the General Assembly complies with the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act, which has alternative requirements for historic buildings whose significance could be threatened by full accessibility. The attached memo from Eric Connery, our facilities administrator, indicates how the legislature makes accommodation for the few inaccessible areas of the Capitol, such as Room 310. Should the legislative leaders wish to construct a ramp or a wheelchair lift so 310 could accommodate wheelchairs, the plan would be presented to the Capitol Preservation and Restoration Commission for its approval. We estimate that a ramp would cost about \$12,000 and a lift about \$10,000.

This past year, six new handicapped parking spaces have been created, for a total of 27 on our grounds. Whenever all the handicapped spaces are filled, our Capitol Police accommodate additional vehicles to the best of their ability. In general, the Capitol Police and Legislative Management staff make every effort to accommodate individuals with disabilities who visit the Capitol and LOB, a fact noted by some of those who testified on their behalf.

A Legislative Information Room in the Capitol basement is available to the public and is wheelchair accessible. It is operated during each legislative session and for a few weeks after adjournment. Staff are able to provide visitors with up-to-date bill status information; computers and copy and fax machines are available for public use; public phones permit local and credit card calls; and televisions broadcast the legislative proceedings from the House and Senate chambers. During the session, notice of the Legislative Information Room and its available facilities is posted daily in the Legislative Bulletin.

Finally, the legislative leaders have approved funding for CTN to conduct a pilot project to (1) test new technology for closed captioning of their broadcasts of selected legislative events for the benefit of the hearing impaired and (2) evaluate its viability for a full-scale implementation.