

SENATE BILL 286

P2
SB 439/17 – EHE

8lr2181

By: Senators Conway, Astle, Bates, Benson, Brochin, Cassilly, Currie, DeGrange, Eckardt, Edwards, Feldman, Ferguson, Guzzone, Hershey, Hough, Jennings, Kagan, Kasemeyer, Kelley, King, Klausmeier, Lee, Madaleno, Manno, Mathias, McFadden, Middleton, Miller, Norman, Oaks, Peters, Pinsky, Ramirez, Ready, Reilly, Robinson, Rosapepe, Salling, Serafini, Simonaire, Smith, Waugh, Young, and Zucker

Introduced and read first time: January 22, 2018

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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 the access
8 technology officer to notify a certain vendor under certain circumstances; providing
9 that a certain vendor may be subject to certain liquidated damages 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 of Information Technology, on or before a certain date, to adopt new nonvisual access
16 procurement standards that are consistent with certain federal standards; altering
17 a certain definition; and generally relating to information technology and nonvisual
18 access.

19 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
20 Article – State Finance and Procurement
21 Section 3A–301, 3A–303, and 3A–311
22 Annotated Code of Maryland
23 (2015 Replacement Volume and 2017 Supplement)

24 BY adding to

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 Article – State Finance and Procurement
2 Section 3A–303.1
3 Annotated Code of Maryland
4 (2015 Replacement Volume and 2017 Supplement)

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

7 **Article – State Finance and Procurement**

8 3A–301.

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

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

12 (i) planning;

13 (ii) procurement;

14 (iii) creation;

15 (iv) installation;

16 (v) testing; and

17 (vi) initial training.

18 (2) “Development” does not include:

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

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

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

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

28 (1) maintenance;

29 (2) telecommunications; and

1 (3) associated consulting services.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 3A-303.

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

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

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

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

9 (4) developing and maintaining a statewide information technology master
10 plan that will:

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

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

15 (iii) consider interstate transfers as a result of federal legislation and
16 regulation;

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

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

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

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

28 (6) APPOINTING AN ACCESS TECHNOLOGY OFFICER.

29 3A-303.1.

30 (A) THE ACCESS TECHNOLOGY OFFICER IS RESPONSIBLE FOR:

1 **(1) BEING DIRECTLY FAMILIAR WITH THE USE OF NONVISUAL ACCESS**
2 **TECHNOLOGY SOFTWARE AND KNOWLEDGEABLE ABOUT INDUSTRY-ACCEPTED**
3 **ACCESSIBILITY GUIDELINES, INCLUDING THE STANDARDS OF SECTION 508 OF THE**
4 **FEDERAL REHABILITATION ACT OF 1973 AND THE WORLD WIDE WEB CONSORTIUM**
5 **WEB CONTENT ACCESSIBILITY GUIDELINES;**

6 **(2) ENSURING THAT TECHNOLOGY PROCURED BY THE STATE IS**
7 **ACCESSIBLE BY:**

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

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

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

17 **(IV) PROVIDING A PROCESS FOR ADDRESSING INACCESSIBLE**
18 **INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY;**

19 **(V) ENSURING THE AVAILABILITY OF RELEVANT INFORMATION**
20 **AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY ACCESSIBILITY SKILLS AND OTHER**
21 **RESOURCES WITHIN THE ORGANIZATION; AND**

22 **(VI) MAKING INFORMATION REGARDING INFORMATION AND**
23 **COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY ACCESSIBILITY POLICY, PLANS, AND PROGRESS**
24 **AVAILABLE TO CUSTOMERS;**

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

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

34 **(5) ENSURING THAT EMPLOYEES WITH DISABILITIES WHO USE**

1 ACCESS TECHNOLOGY SOFTWARE HAVE ACCESS TO THE TRAINING NECESSARY TO
2 ENSURE PROFICIENCY WITH THE ACCESS TECHNOLOGY SOFTWARE AND THE
3 ELECTRONIC INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY REQUIRED TO PERFORM THE
4 RESPONSIBILITIES REQUIRED OF THEIR POSITIONS; AND

5 (6) REVIEWING ALL STATE PROCUREMENT CONTRACTS FOR
6 PURCHASE OF ELECTRONIC INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY PRODUCTS TO ENSURE
7 COMPLIANCE WITH SECTION 508 OF THE FEDERAL REHABILITATION ACT OF 1973
8 AND THE WORLD WIDE WEB CONSORTIUM WEB CONTENT ACCESSIBILITY
9 GUIDELINES 2.0 LEVEL AA.

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

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

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

25 (2) A VENDOR THAT IS FOUND IN VIOLATION UNDER PARAGRAPH (1)
26 OF THIS SUBSECTION IS REQUIRED TO INDEMNIFY THE STATE FOR LIABILITY
27 RESULTING FROM THE USE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY THAT IS FOUND TO BE
28 INACCESSIBLE AFTER THE VENDOR HAS BEEN GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO REMEDY
29 THE ACCESS BARRIER FOR 12 MONTHS.

30 3A-311.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

21 **(C) ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 1, 2019, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ADOPT**
22 **NEW NONVISUAL ACCESS PROCUREMENT STANDARDS THAT ARE CONSISTENT WITH**
23 **THE STANDARDS OF SECTION 508 OF THE FEDERAL REHABILITATION ACT OF 1973.**

24 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
25 October 1, 2018.