

# Chapter 471

## (House Bill 1176)

AN ACT concerning

### **Primary and Secondary Education – Online Courses and Services – Accessibility**

FOR the purpose of requiring the development, review, and approval of certain online courses and services to include an assessment regarding the accessibility of the online course or service to certain individuals with disabilities; authorizing the State Department of Education ~~or a county board of education~~ to contract with a third party ~~for the development of a certain assessment or a certain method by which certain online courses or services will be made available to certain individuals~~ to develop and conduct certain assessments; authorizing the State Board of Education to set certain fees for ~~the development of a certain assessment and a certain method~~ certain assessments; and generally relating to the accessibility of online courses and services to individuals with disabilities, including the blind.

BY adding to

Article – Education  
Section 7–1002(b)(3)  
Annotated Code of Maryland  
(2008 Replacement Volume and 2012 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

Article – Education  
Section 7–1002(c)(1)  
Annotated Code of Maryland  
(2008 Replacement Volume and 2012 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article – Education  
Section 7–1002(c)(2)  
Annotated Code of Maryland  
(2008 Replacement Volume and 2012 Supplement)

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

### **Article – Education**

7–1002.

(b) (3) (I) THE DEVELOPMENT, REVIEW, AND APPROVAL OF AN ONLINE COURSE OR SERVICE CONDUCTED UNDER THIS SUBSECTION SHALL INCLUDE AN ASSESSMENT REGARDING THE ACCESSIBILITY OF THE ONLINE COURSE OR SERVICE TO INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES, INCLUDING THE BLIND.

(II) ~~THE DEPARTMENT OR A COUNTY BOARD~~ MAY CONTRACT WITH A THIRD PARTY ~~FOR~~ TO:

1. ~~THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE~~ DEVELOP AN ASSESSMENT REGARDING ACCESSIBILITY REQUIRED UNDER SUBPARAGRAPH (I) OF THIS PARAGRAPH; OR

2. CONDUCT AN ASSESSMENT OF COURSE ACCESSIBILITY REQUIRED UNDER SUBPARAGRAPH (I) OF THIS PARAGRAPH THAT WILL DETERMINE THE APPROVAL OR DENIAL STATUS OF THE COURSE AND PROVIDE FEEDBACK TO THE COURSE PROVIDER.

~~2. IF THE ASSESSMENT DETERMINES THAT THE ONLINE COURSE OR SERVICE IS NOT ACCESSIBLE TO INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES, INCLUDING THE BLIND, THE DEVELOPMENT OF A METHOD BY WHICH THE ONLINE COURSE OR SERVICE WILL BE MADE ACCESSIBLE TO INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES, INCLUDING THE BLIND.~~

(c) (1) There is a Maryland Virtual Learning Opportunities Fund.

(2) The State Board may set reasonable fees for:

(i) Developing or reviewing online courses and services; [and]

(ii) Processing approvals for online courses and services;

(III) DEVELOPING AN ASSESSMENT REGARDING THE ACCESSIBILITY OF AN ONLINE COURSE OR SERVICE TO INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES, INCLUDING THE BLIND; AND

(IV) ~~DEVELOPING A METHOD BY WHICH~~ ASSESSING AN ONLINE COURSE OR SERVICE WILL BE MADE ACCESSIBLE FOR ITS ACCESSIBILITY TO INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES, INCLUDING THE BLIND.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2013.

**Approved by the Governor, May 16, 2013.**