

HOUSE BILL 396

F2

4r1488
CF 4r1741

By: Delegates F. Turner, Afzali, Anderson, Arora, Barkley, Barnes, Barve, Bohanan, Boteler, Braveboy, Bromwell, Cane, Cardin, Clippinger, Conaway, Cullison, DeBoy, Dumais, Eckardt, Elliott, Fisher, Frank, Fraser-Hidalgo, Frick, Frush, Gaines, George, Gilchrist, Glenn, Guzzone, Harper, Haynes, Healey, Hixson, Hogan, Holmes, Hough, Howard, Hubbard, Hucker, James, Jones, Kaiser, K. Kelly, Krebs, Lee, Love, Luedtke, Malone, McComas, McDermott, McIntosh, McMillan, A. Miller, W. Miller, Mizeur, Murphy, Myers, Nathan-Pulliam, Niemann, O'Donnell, Oaks, Olszewski, Pena-Melnyk, Pendergrass, Ready, Reznik, B. Robinson, Rosenberg, Schulz, Serafini, Smigiel, Sophocleus, Stocksdale, Stukes, Summers, Swain, V. Turner, Valderrama, Valentino-Smith, Vallario, Vaughn, Waldstreicher, Walker, A. Washington, Weir, Wilson, and Zucker

Introduced and read first time: January 23, 2014

Assigned to: Appropriations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Commission on Accessibility Concepts in Computer Science, Information**
3 **Systems, and Information Technology Programs in Higher Education**

4 FOR the purpose of establishing the Commission on Accessibility Concepts in
5 Computer Science, Information Systems, and Information Technology Programs
6 in Higher Education; providing for the composition, chair, and staffing of the
7 Commission; prohibiting a member of the Commission from receiving certain
8 compensation, but authorizing the reimbursement of certain expenses;
9 requiring the Commission to study and make recommendations regarding
10 certain matters; requiring the Commission to submit a preliminary report and a
11 final report of its findings and recommendations to the Governor and certain
12 committees of the General Assembly on or before certain dates; providing for the
13 termination of this Act; defining a certain term; and generally relating to the
14 Commission on Accessibility Concepts in Computer Science, Information
15 Systems, and Information Technology Programs in Higher Education.

16 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
17 MARYLAND, That:

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (a) There is a Commission on Accessibility Concepts in Computer Science,
2 Information Systems, and Information Technology Programs in Higher Education.

3 (b) The Commission consists of the following members:

4 (1) one member of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President
5 of the Senate;

6 (2) one member of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of
7 the House;

8 (3) the Secretary of Information Technology, or the Secretary's
9 designee;

10 (4) the Secretary of Higher Education, or the Secretary's designee;

11 (5) the Executive Director of the Maryland Technology Assistance
12 Program, or the Executive Director's designee; and

13 (6) the following members, appointed by the Governor:

14 (i) one member who is blind or visually impaired, appointed in
15 consultation with the National Federation of the Blind;

16 (ii) one professor of computer science at an institution of higher
17 education in the State, appointed in consultation with the University System of
18 Maryland;

19 (iii) one professor of information systems at an institution of
20 higher education in the State, appointed in consultation with the University System of
21 Maryland;

22 (iv) one professor of information technology at an institution of
23 higher education in the State, appointed in consultation with the University System of
24 Maryland;

25 (v) one representative of a community college in the State,
26 appointed in consultation with the Maryland Association of Community Colleges;

27 (vi) one representative of Morgan State University;

28 (vii) one representative of St. Mary's College of Maryland;

29 (viii) one representative of the Maryland Independent College and
30 University Association;

1 (ix) two university provosts from the University System of
2 Maryland Academic Affairs Advisory Council;

3 (x) one representative of the Maryland Disabilities Law Center;

4 (xi) one student enrolled in a program of study that focuses on
5 computer science, information systems, or information technology; and

6 (xii) one representative of a company that provides Web site
7 design services to private businesses in the State.

8 (c) The Governor shall designate the chair of the Commission.

9 (d) The Department of Information Technology, in coordination with the
10 Maryland Technology Assistance Program, shall provide staff for the Commission.

11 (e) A member of the Commission:

12 (1) may not receive compensation as a member of the Commission; but

13 (2) is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard
14 State Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.

15 (f) (1) In this subsection, "Web accessibility" means the practice of
16 making Web sites useable by individuals of all abilities and disabilities.

17 (2) The Commission shall:

18 (i) compile existing information on and identify any gaps in the
19 current course offerings for Web accessibility in institutions of higher education in the
20 State;

21 (ii) if gaps in the course offerings for Web accessibility are
22 found:

23 1. determine what is needed to close the gaps; and

24 2. determine the State and local cost of each proposal to
25 close the gaps; and

26 (iii) make recommendations on:

27 1. the appropriate number of course offerings for Web
28 accessibility, including proposals for additional course offerings, if necessary;

29 2. funding requirements and budgetary priorities to
30 address the issues raised by the proposals considered by the Commission;

1 3. legislation and policy initiatives to address the issues
2 raised by the proposals considered by the Commission; and

3 4. any other relevant issues considered by the
4 Commission.

5 (g) (1) On or before December 15, 2015, the Commission shall submit a
6 preliminary report of its findings and recommendations to the Governor and, in
7 accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, the Senate Education,
8 Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee and the House Committee on Ways and
9 Means.

10 (2) On or before June 30, 2017, the Commission shall submit a final
11 report of its findings and recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with §
12 2-1246 of the State Government Article, the Senate Education, Health, and
13 Environmental Affairs Committee and the House Committee on Ways and Means.

14 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
15 July 1, 2014. It shall remain effective for a period of 3 years and, at the end of June
16 30, 2017, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be
17 abrogated and of no further force and effect.