

# SENATE BILL 446

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CF HB 396

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By: **Senators Conway, Benson, Dyson, Ferguson, Forehand, Frosh, Jennings, Jones-Rodwell, King, Klausmeier, Montgomery, Pinsky, Pugh, Raskin, Reilly, Rosapepe, Shank, Simonaire, Stone, and Young**

Introduced and read first time: January 24, 2014

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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## 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:

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

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

21 (1) one member of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President  
22 of the Senate;

23 (2) one member of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of  
24 the House;

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1                   (3)    the Secretary of Information Technology, or the Secretary's  
2 designee;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

20                   (vi)   one representative of Morgan State University;

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

22                   (viii) one representative of the Maryland Independent College and  
23 University Association;

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

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

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

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

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

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

4 (e) A member of the Commission:

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

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

8 (f) (1) In this subsection, “Web accessibility” means the practice of  
9 making Web sites useable by individuals of all abilities and disabilities.

10 (2) The Commission shall:

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

14 (ii) if gaps in the course offerings for Web accessibility are  
15 found:

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

17 2. determine the State and local cost of each proposal to  
18 close the gaps; and

19 (iii) make recommendations on:

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

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

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

26 4. any other relevant issues considered by the  
27 Commission.

28 (g) (1) On or before December 15, 2015, the Commission shall submit a  
29 preliminary report of its findings and recommendations to the Governor and, in  
30 accordance with § 2–1246 of the State Government Article, the Senate Education,

1 Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee and the House Committee on Ways and  
2 Means.

3 (2) On or before June 30, 2017, the Commission shall submit a final  
4 report of its findings and recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with §  
5 2-1246 of the State Government Article, the Senate Education, Health, and  
6 Environmental Affairs Committee and the House Committee on Ways and Means.

7 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
8 July 1, 2014. It shall remain effective for a period of 3 years and, at the end of June  
9 30, 2017, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be  
10 abrogated and of no further force and effect.