

# HOUSE BILL 396

F2

(4lr1488)

## ENROLLED BILL

— Appropriations/ Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs —

Introduced 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

Read and Examined by Proofreaders:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Proofreader.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Proofreader.

Sealed with the Great Seal and presented to the Governor, for his approval this

\_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_ o'clock, \_\_\_\_\_ M.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Speaker.

CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

1 AN ACT concerning

2 ~~Commission on~~ ***Department of Disabilities – Study of Accessibility Concepts***  
3 **in Computer Science, Information Systems, and Information Technology**  
4 **Programs in Higher Education**

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### EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.

*Italics indicate opposite chamber/conference committee amendments.*



1 FOR the purpose of ~~establishing the Commission on Accessibility Concepts in~~  
 2 ~~Computer Science, Information Systems, and Information Technology Programs~~  
 3 ~~in Higher Education; providing for the composition, chair, and staffing of the~~  
 4 ~~Commission; prohibiting a member of the Commission from receiving certain~~  
 5 ~~compensation, but authorizing the reimbursement of certain expenses;~~  
 6 ~~requiring the Commission~~ requiring the Department of Disabilities, in  
 7 cooperation with the National Federation of the Blind, to study and make  
 8 recommendations regarding ~~certain matters~~ accessibility concepts in computer  
 9 science, information systems, and information technology programs in higher  
 10 education; requiring the ~~Commission~~ Department to submit a preliminary  
 11 report and a final report of its findings and recommendations to the Governor  
 12 and certain committees of the General Assembly on or before certain dates;  
 13 providing for the termination of this Act; defining a certain term; and generally  
 14 relating to the ~~Commission on Accessibility Concepts in Computer Science,~~  
 15 ~~Information Systems, and Information Technology Programs in Higher~~  
 16 ~~Education~~ study of accessibility concepts in computer science, information  
 17 systems, and information technology programs in higher education.

18 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
 19 MARYLAND, That:

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

22 ~~(b) The Commission consists of the following members:~~

23 ~~(1) one member of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President~~  
 24 ~~of the Senate;~~

25 ~~(2) one member of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of~~  
 26 ~~the House;~~

27 ~~(3) the Secretary of Information Technology, or the Secretary's~~  
 28 ~~designee;~~

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

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

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

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

1                   (ii) ~~one professor of computer science at an institution of higher~~  
2 ~~education in the State, appointed in consultation with the University System of~~  
3 ~~Maryland;~~

4                   (iii) ~~one professor of information systems at an institution of~~  
5 ~~higher education in the State, appointed in consultation with the University System of~~  
6 ~~Maryland;~~

7                   (iv) ~~one professor of information technology at an institution of~~  
8 ~~higher education in the State, appointed in consultation with the University System of~~  
9 ~~Maryland;~~

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

12                  (vi) ~~one representative of Morgan State University;~~

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

14                  (viii) ~~one representative of the Maryland Independent College and~~  
15 ~~University Association;~~

16                  (ix) ~~two university provosts from the University System of~~  
17 ~~Maryland Academic Affairs Advisory Council;~~

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

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

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

23           (e) ~~The Governor shall designate the chair of the Commission.~~

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

26           (e) ~~A member of the Commission:~~

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

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

1 (a) The Department of Disabilities, in cooperation with the National  
 2 Federation of the Blind, shall study accessibility concepts in computer science,  
 3 information systems, and information technology programs in higher education.

4 (b) As part of the study, the Department shall convene a workgroup that  
 5 consists of:

6 (1) provosts, Chief Information Officers, and faculty members in  
 7 computer science, information systems, and information technology programs in higher  
 8 education from:

9 (i) the University System of Maryland;

10 (ii) Morgan State University;

11 (iii) St. Mary's College of Maryland;

12 (iv) private nonprofit institutions of higher education in the  
 13 State; and

14 (v) community colleges; and

15 (2) members who are:

16 (i) accessibility experts;

17 (ii) web developers; and

18 (iii) any other individuals with knowledge that would benefit the  
 19 Department in its study.

20 ~~(c) (1) In this subsection, "Web accessibility" means the practice of~~  
 21 ~~making Web sites useable by individuals of all abilities and disabilities~~ accessibility"  
 22 means fully and equally accessible to and independently usable by individuals with  
 23 disabilities so that they are able to acquire the same information, engage in the same  
 24 interactions, and enjoy the same services as users without disabilities, with  
 25 substantially equivalent ease of use.

26 (2) The ~~Commission~~ Department shall:

27 (i) compile existing information on and identify any gaps in the  
 28 current course offerings for ~~Web~~ accessibility to information technologies in  
 29 institutions of higher education in the State;

30 (ii) if gaps in the course offerings for ~~Web~~ accessibility to  
 31 information technologies are found:

