

HOUSE BILL 396

F2

4r1488
CF SB 446

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

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: February 11, 2014

CHAPTER _____

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

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.



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

3 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
4 MARYLAND, That:

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

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

8 (1) one member of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President
9 of the Senate;

10 (2) one member of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of
11 the House;

12 (3) the Secretary of Information Technology, or the Secretary's
13 designee;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

31 (vi) one representative of Morgan State University;

- 1 (vii) one representative of St. Mary's College of Maryland;
- 2 (viii) one representative of the Maryland Independent College and
3 University Association;
- 4 (ix) two university provosts from the University System of
5 Maryland Academic Affairs Advisory Council;
- 6 (x) one representative of the Maryland Disabilities Law Center;
- 7 (xi) one student enrolled in a program of study that focuses on
8 computer science, information systems, or information technology; and
- 9 (xii) one representative of a company that provides Web site
10 design services to private businesses in the State.

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

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

14 (e) A member of the Commission:

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

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

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

24 (2) The Commission shall:

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

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

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

