

# SENATE BILL 439

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By: **Senators Conway, Bates, Benson, Eckardt, Kagan, Madaleno, Manno, McFadden, Peters, Pinsky, Robinson, Salling, Simonaire, Waugh, Young, and Zucker**

Introduced and read first time: January 30, 2017

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **State Procurement – Information Technology – Nonvisual Access**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the Secretary of Information Technology to appoint an access  
4 technology officer in accordance with certain requirements; establishing the duties  
5 of the access technology officer; requiring the access technology officer to develop a  
6 provision for inclusion in all State procurement contracts that requires a certain  
7 determination to be made within a certain amount of time; requiring an access  
8 technology officer to notify a certain vendor under certain circumstances; providing  
9 that a certain vendor may be subject to a certain civil penalty under certain  
10 circumstances; requiring a certain vendor that is found in violation of a certain  
11 requirement to indemnify the State from liability under certain circumstances;  
12 requiring the access technology officer, along with other parties, to develop a  
13 nonvisual access clause in accordance with certain requirements; altering a certain  
14 exemption from the nonvisual access clause requirement; requiring the Department,  
15 on or before a certain date, to adopt new nonvisual access procurement standards  
16 that are consistent with certain federal standards; altering a certain definition; and  
17 generally relating to information technology and nonvisual access.

18 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
19 Article – State Finance and Procurement  
20 Section 3A–301, 3A–303, and 3A–311  
21 Annotated Code of Maryland  
22 (2015 Replacement Volume and 2016 Supplement)

23 BY adding to  
24 Article – State Finance and Procurement  
25 Section 3A–303.1  
26 Annotated Code of Maryland  
27 (2015 Replacement Volume and 2016 Supplement)

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



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

**Article – State Finance and Procurement**

3A-301.

(a) In this subtitle the following words have the meanings indicated.

(b) (1) “Development” means all expenditures for a new information  
technology system or an enhancement to an existing system including system:

(i) planning;

(ii) procurement;

(iii) creation;

(iv) installation;

(v) testing; and

(vi) initial training.

(2) “Development” does not include:

(i) ongoing operating costs, software or hardware maintenance,  
routine upgrades, or modifications that merely allow for a continuation of the existing level  
of functionality; or

(ii) expenditures made after a new or enhanced system has been  
legally accepted by the user and is being used for the business process for which it was  
intended.

(c) “Fund” means the Major Information Technology Development Project Fund.

(d) “Information technology” means all electronic information processing  
hardware and software, including:

(1) maintenance;

(2) telecommunications; and

(3) associated consulting services.

(e) “Information technology services” means information provided by electronic means by or on behalf of a unit of State government.

(f) “Major information technology development project” means any information technology development project that meets one or more of the following criteria:

(1) the estimated total cost of development equals or exceeds \$1,000,000;

(2) the project is undertaken to support a critical business function associated with the public health, education, safety, or financial well-being of the citizens of Maryland; or

(3) the Secretary determines that the project requires the special attention and consideration given to a major information technology development project due to:

(i) the significance of the project’s potential benefits or risks;

(ii) the impact of the project on the public or local governments;

(iii) the public visibility of the project; or

(iv) other reasons as determined by the Secretary.

(g) “Master plan” means the statewide information technology master plan.

(h) “Nonvisual access” means the ability[, through keyboard control, synthesized speech, Braille, or other methods not requiring sight] to receive, use, and manipulate information and operate controls necessary to access information technology **IN A WAY THAT IS FULLY AND EQUALLY ACCESSIBLE TO AND INDEPENDENTLY USABLE BY INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES, SO THAT THEY ARE ABLE TO ACQUIRE THE SAME INFORMATION, ENGAGE IN THE SAME INTERACTIONS, AND ENJOY THE SAME SERVICES AS USERS WITHOUT DISABILITIES, WITH SUBSTANTIALLY EQUIVALENT EASE OF USE, USING THE STANDARDS OF SECTION 508 OF THE FEDERAL REHABILITATION ACT OF 1973.**

(i) “Resource sharing” means the utilization of a State resource by private industry in exchange for the provision to the State of a communication service or other consideration.

(j) “Systems development life cycle plan” means a plan that defines all actions, functions, or activities to be performed by a unit of State government in the definition, planning, acquisition, development, testing, implementation, operation, enhancement, and modification of information technology systems.

3A-303.

The Secretary is responsible for carrying out the following duties:

(1) developing, maintaining, revising, and enforcing information technology policies, procedures, and standards;

(2) providing technical assistance, advice, and recommendations to the Governor and any unit of State government concerning information technology matters;

(3) reviewing the annual project plan for each unit of State government to make information and services available to the public over the Internet;

(4) developing and maintaining a statewide information technology master plan that will:

(i) be the basis for the management and direction of information technology within the Executive Branch of State government;

(ii) include all aspects of State information technology including telecommunications, data processing, and information management;

(iii) consider interstate transfers as a result of federal legislation and regulation;

(iv) work jointly with the Secretary of Budget and Management to ensure that information technology plans and budgets are consistent;

(v) ensure that State information technology plans, policies, and standards are consistent with State goals, objectives, and resources, and represent a long-range vision for using information technology to improve the overall effectiveness of State government; and

(vi) include standards to assure nonvisual access to the information and services made available to the public over the Internet; [and]

(5) adopting by regulation and enforcing nonvisual access standards to be used in the procurement of information technology services by or on behalf of units of State government; AND

**(6) APPOINTING AN ACCESS TECHNOLOGY OFFICER.**

**3A-303.1.**

**(A) THE ACCESS TECHNOLOGY OFFICER IS RESPONSIBLE FOR:**

**(1) BEING DIRECTLY FAMILIAR WITH THE USE OF NONVISUAL ACCESS TECHNOLOGY SOFTWARE AND KNOWLEDGEABLE ABOUT INDUSTRY-ACCEPTED**

1 ACCESSIBILITY GUIDELINES, INCLUDING THE STANDARDS OF SECTION 508 OF THE  
2 FEDERAL REHABILITATION ACT OF 1973 AND THE WORLD WIDE WEB CONSORTIUM  
3 WEB CONTENT ACCESSIBILITY GUIDELINES;

4 (2) ENSURING THAT TECHNOLOGY PROCURED BY THE STATE IS  
5 ACCESSIBLE BY:

6 (I) DEVELOPING, IMPLEMENTING, AND MAINTAINING AN  
7 INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY ACCESSIBILITY POLICY;

8 (II) ESTABLISHING AND MAINTAINING, IN CONSULTATION WITH  
9 THE SECRETARY, AN ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE THAT ENABLES AND  
10 FACILITATES PROGRESS IN INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY  
11 ACCESSIBILITY;

12 (III) INTEGRATING INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS  
13 TECHNOLOGY ACCESSIBILITY CRITERIA INTO KEY PHASES OF DEVELOPMENT,  
14 PROCUREMENT, ACQUISITIONS, AND OTHER RELEVANT BUSINESS PROCESSES;

15 (IV) PROVIDING A PROCESS FOR ADDRESSING INACCESSIBLE  
16 INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY;

17 (V) ENSURING THE AVAILABILITY OF RELEVANT INFORMATION  
18 AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY ACCESSIBILITY SKILLS AND OTHER  
19 RESOURCES WITHIN THE ORGANIZATION; AND

20 (VI) MAKING INFORMATION REGARDING INFORMATION AND  
21 COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY ACCESSIBILITY POLICY, PLANS, AND PROGRESS  
22 AVAILABLE TO CUSTOMERS;

23 (3) CONDUCTING HANDS-ON TESTING OF BOTH EMPLOYEE AND  
24 PUBLIC-FACING ELECTRONIC INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY PRODUCTS TO CONFIRM  
25 THE PRODUCT'S CONFORMANCE TO APPLICABLE ACCESSIBILITY GUIDELINES FOR  
26 WEB-BASED APPLICATIONS ACCORDING TO WORLD WIDE WEB CONSORTIUM WEB  
27 CONTENT ACCESSIBILITY GUIDELINES 2.0 LEVEL AA;

28 (4) USING RELEVANT FUNCTIONAL ACCESS GUIDELINES AS ADOPTED  
29 BY THE U.S. ACCESS BOARD, WHICH INCORPORATE THE CORE PRINCIPLES OF  
30 SECTION 508 OF THE FEDERAL REHABILITATION ACT OF 1973 FOR  
31 NON-WEB-BASED SOFTWARE OR HARDWARE;

32 (5) ENSURING THAT EMPLOYEES WITH DISABILITIES WHO USE  
33 ACCESS TECHNOLOGY SOFTWARE HAVE ACCESS TO THE TRAINING NECESSARY TO

1 ENSURE PROFICIENCY WITH THE ACCESS TECHNOLOGY SOFTWARE AND THE  
2 ELECTRONIC INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY REQUIRED TO PERFORM THE  
3 RESPONSIBILITIES REQUIRED OF THEIR POSITIONS; AND

4 (6) REVIEWING ALL STATE PROCUREMENT CONTRACTS FOR  
5 PURCHASE OF ELECTRONIC INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY PRODUCTS TO DETERMINE  
6 WHETHER THERE ARE ANY BARRIERS TO ACCESS IN ACCORDANCE WITH  
7 SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION.

8 (B) (1) THE ACCESS TECHNOLOGY OFFICER SHALL DEVELOP A  
9 PROVISION FOR INCLUSION IN ALL STATE PROCUREMENT CONTRACTS THAT  
10 REQUIRES A DETERMINATION BY THE ACCESS TECHNOLOGY OFFICER WITHIN 18  
11 MONTHS FROM CONTRACT COMMENCEMENT OF A BARRIER TO ACCESS ELECTRONIC  
12 INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY PRODUCTS.

13 (2) IF THE ACCESS TECHNOLOGY OFFICER DETERMINES THAT AN  
14 ACCESS BARRIER IS PRESENT, THE ACCESS TECHNOLOGY OFFICER SHALL NOTIFY  
15 THE VENDOR IN WRITING AND REQUIRE THE VENDOR, AT THE VENDOR'S OWN  
16 EXPENSE, TO REMEDY THE DEFECT WITHIN 12 MONTHS.

17 (C) (1) IF THE VENDOR FAILS TO REMEDY THE ACCESS BARRIER WITHIN  
18 12 MONTHS FROM THE DATE OF THE NOTIFICATION REQUIRED UNDER SUBSECTION  
19 (B)(2) OF THIS SECTION, THE VENDOR MAY BE SUBJECT TO A CIVIL PENALTY  
20 APPLIED AT THE RATE OF 1% OF THE TOTAL PURCHASE PRICE OF THE CONTRACT  
21 FOR EACH DAY UNTIL THE PROBLEM IS REMEDIATED OR UNTIL THE FULL PRICE OF  
22 THE CONTRACT IS REFUNDED.

23 (2) A VENDOR THAT IS FOUND IN VIOLATION UNDER PARAGRAPH (1)  
24 OF THIS SUBSECTION IS REQUIRED TO INDEMNIFY THE STATE FOR LIABILITY  
25 RESULTING FROM THE USE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY THAT IS FOUND TO BE  
26 INACCESSIBLE AFTER THE VENDOR HAS BEEN GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO REMEDY  
27 THE ACCESS BARRIER.

28 3A-311.

29 (a) The Secretary AND ACCESS TECHNOLOGY OFFICER, in consultation with  
30 other units of State government, and after public comment, shall develop a nonvisual access  
31 clause for use in the procurement of information technology and information technology  
32 services that specifies that the technology and services:

33 (1) must provide equivalent access for effective use by both visual and  
34 nonvisual means;

(2) will present information, including prompts used for interactive communications, in formats intended for both visual and nonvisual use;

(3) can be integrated into networks for obtaining, retrieving, and disseminating information used by individuals who are not blind or visually impaired; and

(4) shall be obtained, whenever possible, without modification for compatibility with software and hardware for nonvisual access.

(b) (1) Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, the nonvisual access clause required under subsection (a) of this section shall be included in each invitation for bids or request for proposals and in each procurement contract or modification of a contract issued under Title 13 of this article, without regard to the method chosen under Title 13, Subtitle 1 of this article for the purchase of new or upgraded information technology and information technology services.

(2) Except as provided in subsection (a)(4) of this section, the nonvisual access clause required under paragraph (1) of this subsection is not required if:

(i) the information technology is not available with nonvisual access because the essential elements of the information technology are visual and nonvisual equivalence cannot be developed; or

(ii) the cost of modifying the information technology for compatibility with software and hardware for nonvisual access would increase the price of the procurement by more than ~~[5%]~~ 15%.

**(C) ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 1, 2018, THE DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SHALL ADOPT NEW NONVISUAL ACCESS PROCUREMENT STANDARDS THAT ARE CONSISTENT WITH THE STANDARDS OF SECTION 508 OF THE FEDERAL REHABILITATION ACT OF 1973.**

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2017.