

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE
SENATE, No. 1016
STATE OF NEW JERSEY
221st LEGISLATURE

DATED: MARCH 21, 2024

SUMMARY

- Synopsis:** Requires State agencies to make their websites accessible to people with disabilities and on mobile devices.
- Type of Impact:** Annual State expenditure increase.
- Agencies Affected:** Office of Information Technology in the Department of the Treasury; all State agencies.

Office of Legislative Services Estimate

Annual Fiscal Impact	
State Expenditure	Indeterminate

- The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) estimates that this bill will increase State expenditures related to the provision of information technology services to State agencies by the Office of Information Technology by up an indeterminate amount annually. Most of the cost increase will occur in the first two years following the effective date of this bill, which is the timeframe in which the Office of Information Technology will determine that all agencies are in compliance with the bill’s provisions.
- The OLS requested data from Office of Information Technology regarding the number of State websites that would require updates to meet the web content accessibility guidelines and mobile device access specified in the bill, the number of work hours required to achieve compliance, whether the Office of Information Technology personnel or agency personnel would perform the necessary work, and any additional information that would help to determine State or agency costs. To date, the Office of Information Technology has not provided information regarding the bill’s cost implications.
- For illustrative purposes, the analysis section of this document estimates potential expenditures based on prevailing information about the cost to make a website compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), federal accessibility legislation, and mobile device accessibility.

BILL DESCRIPTION

This bill requires State agencies to adhere to the most recent guidance regarding accessibility standards for web content and to make web content accessible via mobile devices. Under the bill, the Office of Information Technology is responsible for certifying whether agency websites comply with these guidelines.

FISCAL ANALYSIS

EXECUTIVE BRANCH

None received.

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES

The OLS estimates that this bill will increase State expenditures related to the provision of information technology services to State agencies by the Office of Information Technology by an indeterminate amount in the two years following its enactment and by a smaller indeterminate amount thereafter. The OLS does not have the data to determine the amount of the initial and ongoing expenditure increases that will result from the bill's requirement to make State agency websites accessible to people with disabilities and on mobile devices.

Research suggests that the cost of auditing a website to determine ADA compliance can range from \$500 to \$10,000, while updating a website to achieve ADA compliance can cost anywhere from \$3,000 to above \$5,000. Research also suggests that making a website accessible via mobile devices can cost between \$5,000 and \$25,000.

The OLS does not know the exact cost of an audit, the total number of State agency websites, or the number of websites that would require maintenance to comply with the most up-to-date accessibility guidelines for traditional web content access or mobile device access.

Section: State Government

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*Approved: Thomas Koenig
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This legislative fiscal estimate has been produced by the Office of Legislative Services due to the failure of the Executive Branch to respond to our request for a fiscal note.

This fiscal estimate has been prepared pursuant to P.L.1980, c.67 (C.52:13B-6 et seq.).