

ASSEMBLY, No. 1098

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

Sponsored by:

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SYNOPSIS

Requires State agencies to make their websites accessible to people with disabilities and on mobile devices.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 1/11/2021)

1 **AN ACT** concerning the websites of State government agencies and
2 amending of P.L.2007, c.56.

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4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
5 of New Jersey:

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7 1. Section 16 of P.L.2007, c.56 (C.52:18A-234) is amended to
8 read as follows:

9 16. a. All Executive Branch departments and State agencies are
10 directed to cooperate fully with the Office of Information
11 Technology and the Chief Technology Officer to implement the
12 provisions of sections 6 through 16 of P.L.2007, c.56 (C.52:18A-
13 224 through C.52:18A-234) and to ensure effective use of
14 information technology within the Executive Branch of State
15 Government.

16 The Governor shall define and establish the overall direction,
17 standards, and priorities for the information technology community
18 in the Executive Branch of State Government.

19 b. The Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.0
20 Level AA, or the most up-to-date version of the guidelines, shall be
21 the accessibility standard for the web pages, sites, and services of
22 all State agencies. Each web page, site, and service shall be
23 configured in such a way that it can be navigated, viewed, and
24 accessed on a smartphone, tablet computer, or similar mobile
25 device.

26 The Chief Technology Officer shall establish the protocol by
27 which a State agency can determine that its web pages, sites, and
28 services comply with the requirements in this subsection.
29 Compliance shall be certified by the Chief Technology Officer. A
30 web page, site, or service that is in operation on the effective date of
31 P.L. , c. (pending before the Legislature as this bill) shall be
32 certified by the Chief Technology Officer no later than two years
33 from that effective date as being in compliance with the
34 requirements. A web page, site, or service created after the
35 effective date of P.L. , c. (pending before the Legislature as
36 this bill) shall not be considered operational until it has been
37 certified by the Chief Technology Officer as being in compliance
38 with the requirements. The Chief Technology Officer shall
39 recertify the compliance of each web page, site, and service every
40 two years after initial certification.

41 As used in this subsection, "State agency" means the Executive
42 and Legislative Branch of the State, including, but not limited to,
43 any department, board, bureau, commission, division, office,
44 council, agency, or instrumentality thereof, or independent agency,
45 public authority, or public benefit corporation.

46 (cf: P.L.2013, c.253, s.47)

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

1 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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6 This bill requires that the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines
7 (WCAG) 2.0 AA, or the most up-to-date version of the guidelines,
8 must be the accessibility standard for the websites of all State
9 agencies, and each website must be configured in such a way that it
10 can be navigated, viewed, and accessed on a smartphone, tablet
11 computer, or similar mobile device.

12 The WCAG guidelines make content accessible for people with
13 disabilities.

14 The Chief Technology Officer must establish the protocol by
15 which a State agency can determine that its websites comply with
16 the requirements. The Chief Technology Officer must certify each
17 website's compliance two years after the bill's effective date and
18 recertify compliance once every two years thereafter.

19 As used in this bill, "State agency" means the Executive and
20 Legislative Branch of the State, including, but not limited to, any
21 department, board, bureau, commission, division, office, council,
22 agency, or instrumentality thereof, or independent agency, public
23 authority, or public benefit corporation.