

[First Reprint]

SENATE, No. 3094

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED NOVEMBER 5, 2020

Sponsored by:

Senator M. TERESA RUIZ

District 29 (Essex)

Senator JAMES BEACH

District 6 (Burlington and Camden)

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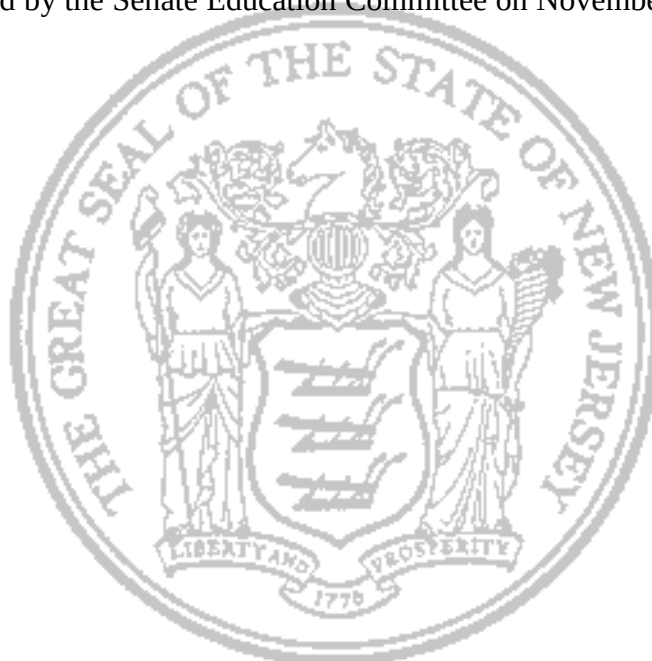
Senators Pou and Cunningham

SYNOPSIS

Requires Internet websites and web services of school districts, charter schools, and renaissance schools to be accessible to persons with disabilities.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As reported by the Senate Education Committee on November 8, 2021, with amendments.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 2/9/2021)

1 AN ACT concerning the accessibility of public school websites and
 2 web services and supplementing chapter 36 of Title 18A of the
 3 New Jersey Statutes.

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

7
 8 1. a. ¹**Any Internet website or web service of a** ~~No~~¹ school
 9 district, charter school, ¹**or**¹ renaissance school ¹, ~~or the Marie H.~~
 10 ~~Katzenbach School for the Deaf~~¹ shall ¹**comply**¹ make available to
 11 the enrolled students of the district or school or to the public an
 12 Internet website or web service unless the Internet website or web
 13 service complies¹ with the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines
 14 (WCAG) 2.1 Level AA ¹**[,]**¹ or the most up-to-date version of the
 15 guidelines ¹if the guidelines are approved by the Commissioner of
 16 Education, or any other applicable guidelines or requirements as
 17 may be designated or approved by the Commissioner of Education¹.

18 b. The Commissioner of Education shall establish a procedure
 19 to determine whether the Internet website or web service of a school
 20 district, charter school, ¹**or**¹ renaissance school ¹, ~~or the Marie H.~~
 21 ~~Katzenbach School for the Deaf~~¹ complies with the requirements of
 22 this section. The ¹**Office of Information Technology in the**¹
 23 Department of Education shall be responsible for issuing
 24 certifications of compliance, which certifications shall attest that an
 25 Internet website or web service complies with the requirements of
 26 ¹**the**¹ this¹ section.

27 c. (1) If a school district, charter school, ¹**or**¹ renaissance
 28 school ¹, ~~or the Marie H. Katzenbach School for the Deaf~~¹
 29 establishes ¹**or significantly improves**¹ an Internet website or web
 30 service after the effective date of this act, the public school shall
 31 receive a certification of compliance from the ¹**office before the**¹
 32 **Internet website or web service may be considered operational**¹
 33 department¹. ¹An Internet website or web service established by a
 34 school district, charter school, renaissance school, or the Marie H.
 35 Katzenbach School for the Deaf after the effective date of this act
 36 shall be permitted to operate while pending receipt of a certification
 37 of compliance from the department.¹

38 (2) Every two years following ¹**initial certification, the office**¹
 39 **shall**¹ the effective date of this act, a school district, charter school,
 40 renaissance school, or the Marie H. Katzenbach School for the Deaf
 41 shall certify or¹ recertify the compliance of each Internet website or
 42 web service operated by ¹**a**¹ the¹ school district, charter school,

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.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹Senate SED committee amendments adopted November 8, 2021.

1 ~~'[or]'~~ renaissance school ¹, or the Marie H. Katzenbach School for
2 the Deaf¹ with the requirements of this section.

3 d. ~~'Nothing in this section shall be construed to bar, exclude, or~~
4 ~~otherwise affect any right or action that exists under the "Law~~
5 ~~Against Discrimination," P.L.1945, c.169 (C.10:5-1 et seq.).~~

6 e.¹ As used in this section, "Internet website or web service"
7 includes any webpage, website, web service, online curriculum, or
8 online third party or open educational resource product that is made
9 available to enrolled students or the public by a school district,
10 charter school, ~~'[or]'~~ renaissance school ¹, or the Marie H.
11 Katzenbach School for the Deaf¹ through the Internet.

12
13 2. This act shall take effect ~~'[immediately]~~ on the first day of
14 the sixth month next following the date of enactment, but the
15 Commissioner of Education may take any anticipatory
16 administrative action in advance as shall be necessary for the
17 implementation of this act¹.