

SENATE BILL 461

F1

3lr2127

By: **Senators Conway, Benson, Brinkley, Brochin, Colburn, Currie, DeGrange, Dyson, Edwards, Ferguson, Forehand, Frosh, Garagiola, Getty, Gladden, Glassman, Jacobs, Jones–Rodwell, Kasemeyer, Kittleman, Klausmeier, Madaleno, Manno, Mathias, McFadden, Middleton, Miller, Montgomery, Muse, Peters, Pinsky, Pipkin, Pugh, Raskin, Reilly, Robey, Rosapepe, Stone, Young, and Zirkin**

Introduced and read first time: January 30, 2013

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Primary and Secondary Education – Online Courses and Services –**
3 **Accessibility**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring the development, review, and approval of certain online
5 courses and services to include an assessment regarding the accessibility of the
6 online course or service to certain individuals with disabilities; authorizing the
7 State Department of Education or a county board of education to contract with a
8 third party for the development of a certain assessment or a certain method by
9 which certain online courses or services will be made available to certain
10 individuals; authorizing the State Board of Education to set certain fees for the
11 development of a certain assessment and a certain method; and generally
12 relating to the accessibility of online courses and services to individuals with
13 disabilities, including the blind.

14 BY adding to
15 Article – Education
16 Section 7–1002(b)(3)
17 Annotated Code of Maryland
18 (2008 Replacement Volume and 2012 Supplement)

19 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
20 Article – Education
21 Section 7–1002(c)(1)
22 Annotated Code of Maryland
23 (2008 Replacement Volume and 2012 Supplement)

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
2 Article – Education
3 Section 7–1002(c)(2)
4 Annotated Code of Maryland
5 (2008 Replacement Volume and 2012 Supplement)

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

8 **Article – Education**

9 7–1002.

10 (b) (3) (i) **THE DEVELOPMENT, REVIEW, AND APPROVAL OF AN**
11 **ONLINE COURSE OR SERVICE CONDUCTED UNDER THIS SUBSECTION SHALL**
12 **INCLUDE AN ASSESSMENT REGARDING THE ACCESSIBILITY OF THE ONLINE**
13 **COURSE OR SERVICE TO INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES, INCLUDING THE**
14 **BLIND.**

15 (ii) **THE DEPARTMENT OR A COUNTY BOARD MAY**
16 **CONTRACT WITH A THIRD PARTY FOR:**

17 1. **THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE ASSESSMENT**
18 **REGARDING ACCESSIBILITY REQUIRED UNDER SUBPARAGRAPH (I) OF THIS**
19 **PARAGRAPH; OR**

20 2. **IF THE ASSESSMENT DETERMINES THAT THE**
21 **ONLINE COURSE OR SERVICE IS NOT ACCESSIBLE TO INDIVIDUALS WITH**
22 **DISABILITIES, INCLUDING THE BLIND, THE DEVELOPMENT OF A METHOD BY**
23 **WHICH THE ONLINE COURSE OR SERVICE WILL BE MADE ACCESSIBLE TO**
24 **INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES, INCLUDING THE BLIND.**

25 (c) (1) There is a Maryland Virtual Learning Opportunities Fund.

26 (2) The State Board may set reasonable fees for:

27 (i) Developing or reviewing online courses and services; [and]

28 (ii) Processing approvals for online courses and services;

29 (iii) **DEVELOPING AN ASSESSMENT REGARDING THE**
30 **ACCESSIBILITY OF AN ONLINE COURSE OR SERVICE TO INDIVIDUALS WITH**
31 **DISABILITIES, INCLUDING THE BLIND; AND**

1 **(IV) DEVELOPING A METHOD BY WHICH AN ONLINE COURSE**
2 **OR SERVICE WILL BE MADE ACCESSIBLE TO INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES,**
3 **INCLUDING THE BLIND.**

4 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
5 October 1, 2013.