

HOUSE No. 349

By Mr. Cabral of New Bedford, of Antonio F. D. Cabral and others relative to accessibility of information technology for individuals with disabilities. Economic Development and Emerging Technologies.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PETITION OF:

Antonio F. D. Cabral Frank I. Smizik
Theodore C. Speliotis Edward M. Augustus, Jr.

In the Year Two Thousand and Seven.

AN ACT TO INSURE ACCESSIBLE TECHNOLOGY.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

- 1 Chapter 110G: Section 19 of the General Laws, as appearing in
- 2 the 2004 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting the
- 3 following language.
- 4 Electronic information and telecommunication technology pur-
- 5 chased by entities of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts shall be
- 6 in compliance with the provisions of Section 508 of the U.S. Work-
- 7 force Investment Act of 1998 regarding accessibility of information
- 8 technology for individuals with disabilities for the purposes of
- 9 ensuring that the information technology allows employees, program
- 10 participants and members of the general public access to and use of
- 11 information and data that is comparable to the access by individuals
- 12 without disabilities.
- 13 The Information Technology Division of the Executive Office of
- 14 Administration and Finance shall
- 15 (1) Adopt accessibility standards to be used by each state depart-
- 16 ment or agency in the procurement of information technology, and in
- 17 the development and implementation of custom-designed informa-
- 18 tion technology systems, web sites and other emerging information
- 19 technology systems;

- 20 (2) Establish and implement a review procedure to be used to
21 evaluate the accessibility of custom-designed information tech-
22 nology systems proposed by a state department or agency prior to
23 expenditure of state funds;
- 24 (3) Review and evaluate accessibility of information technology
25 commonly purchased by state departments and agencies, and pro-
26 vide accessibility reports on such products to those responsible for
27 purchasing decisions.