

House Research Act Summary

CHAPTER: 131

SESSION: 2009 Regular Session

TOPIC: State Technology Accessibility Standards

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Overview

Requires adoption of technology access standards for state information technology services and equipment. Establishes an advisory committee for state technology standards for accessibility and usability. Appropriates money from the telecommunications access Minnesota fund for several purposes related to accessibility and usability.

Section

- 1** **Definitions.** Defines the terms “accessibility” and “accessible.”
- 2** **Contracting authority.** Authorizes the commissioner of administration to require other state agencies to participate in development of enterprise procurements, including product standards and application of accessibility standards.
- 3** **Duties of contracting agency; professional/technical contracts.** Amends the law governing state agency professional/technical service contracts by adding a requirement that agencies seeking approval of a contract must describe accessibility measures that will be used to monitor contract performance.
- 4** **Responsibilities; Office of Enterprise Technology.** Requires the Office of Enterprise Technology (OET) to provide leadership on information and telecommunications technology accessibility.
- 5** **Duties; Office of Enterprise Technology.** Requires OET, with respect to state technology systems, to manage and direct compliance with accessibility standards.
- 6** **Definitions.** Defines terms (including “accessible” and “undue burden”) for purposes of laws governing OET.

- 7 **Office of Enterprise Technology.** Requires OET to have staff with training in accessibility.
- 8 **Chief information officer.** Requires the OET chief information officer to establish and enforce compliance with technology accessibility standards.
- 9 **Evaluation procedure.** Requires the process for evaluating state agency information and communication projects to assess accessibility of the projects.
- 10 **Accessibility standards.** Requires the chief information officer in OET to develop accessibility standards applicable to state technology, software, and hardware procurement, with the exception of infrastructure hardware. Provides that the standards must not impose an undue burden on the state. Provides that OET shall require state agencies to adhere to the standards unless an exception is approved. Provides that, except as provided, the standards must incorporate specified federal laws. Authorizes OET to modify standards if a standard would impose an undue burden on the state. Requires the standards to apply to information technology procured, developed, or substantially modified or enhanced after the standards are adopted. Provides that the standards do not apply to procurement or development initiated before the standards are adopted.
- 11 **Exceptions to accessibility standards.** Authorizes OET to grant exceptions to standards, in accordance with the advisory committee process in this bill.
- 12 **Advisory committee for technology standards.** Creates a ten-member Advisory Committee for Technology Standards for Accessibility and Usability. Requires the committee to perform specified duties relating to accessibility of information technology and telecommunications systems. Provides a June 30, 2011, sunset date for the committee.
- 13 **Definitions.** Adds the word “accessible” to the description of core services to be provided on the state’s North Star website.
- 14 **Repeal of prior appropriation.** Repeals an appropriation made earlier in 2009 for the same purpose as the appropriation in a later section of this bill, to avoid duplicative appropriations for the same purpose.
- 15 **Advisory committee.** Requires initial appointments to the technology standards advisory committee to be made by August 1, 2009, and requires the initial meeting to be held by September 1, 2009.
- 16 **Fund/Appropriation.** Appropriates money from the telecommunications access fund to OET for coordinating technology accessibility, to the Commission of DeafBlind and Hard of Hearing Minnesotans to provide information on their website in American Sign Language, and to the Legislative Coordinating Commission for a pilot project to provide captioning of live streaming of legislative session on the commission’s website. Provides that up to \$276,000 of specified ARRA money must be transferred to the Department of Administration and OET to develop and implement technology accessibility standards to expand employment outcomes for individuals with disabilities.
- 17 **Effective date.** Effective July 1, 2009