## House Research

## - Bill Summary :

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**Subject:** Accessibility Standards Applied to Legislature

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This bill requires the legislature to apply the standard for accessibility adopted by the state's chief information officer to all documents produce by legislators and legislative employees for public distribution. The legislature is further required to make reasonable efforts to encourage persons submitting documents or data for distribution at a public meeting to submit them in a format that complies with the standard.

As described by MN.IT, the goal of the standard is to "improve the accessibility and usability of information technology products and services for all government end-users in the State of Minnesota." The standard incorporates certain requirements of federal law, and the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 2.0, which is a series of guidelines for accessibility adopted by an organization that develops international standards and protocols for the structure and operation of the internet.

The Legislative Coordinating Commission, and the House and Senate committees with jurisdiction over rules, must develop a process for granting exemptions, and may modify the standards as necessary to prevent an undue burden. As defined in law, an "undue burden" means a "significant difficulty or expense determined and documented by the funding agency, including but not limited to difficulty or expense associated with technical feasibility."