## ASSEMBLY, No. 4856 **STATE OF NEW JERSEY** 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED OCTOBER 22, 2020

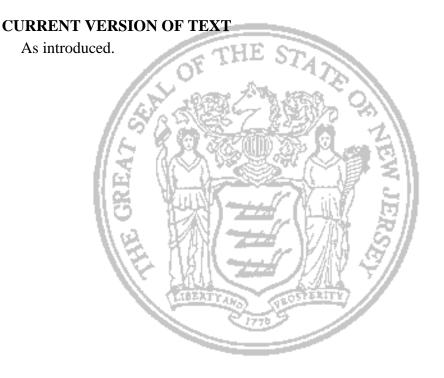
Sponsored by: Assemblywoman PAMELA R. LAMPITT District 6 (Burlington and Camden) Assemblyman DANIEL R. BENSON District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex) Assemblyman RALPH R. CAPUTO District 28 (Essex)

**Co-Sponsored by:** 

Assemblywoman Vainieri Huttle, Assemblymen McClellan, Simonsen, Conaway, Verrelli, Assemblywoman Dunn, Assemblyman Dancer, Assemblywomen Jasey and Quijano

## **SYNOPSIS**

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



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 1/25/2021)

## A4856 LAMPITT, BENSON

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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. Any Internet website or web service of a school district, 9 charter school, or renaissance school shall comply with the Web 10 Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.1 Level AA, or the 11 most up-to-date version of the guidelines. 12 The Commissioner of Education shall establish a procedure h to determine whether the Internet website or web service of a school 13 district, charter school, or renaissance school complies with the 14 15 requirements of this section. The Office of Information Technology in the Department of Education shall be responsible for issuing 16 17 certifications of compliance, which certifications shall attest that an 18 Internet website or web service complies with the requirements of the section. 19 20 c. (1) If a school district, charter school, or renaissance school establishes or significantly improves an Internet website or web 21 22 service after the effective date of this act, the public school shall 23 receive a certification of compliance from the office before the 24 Internet website or web service may be considered operational. 25 (2) Every two years following initial certification, the office 26 shall recertify the compliance of each Internet website or web 27 service operated by a school district, charter school, or renaissance 28 school with the requirements of this section. 29 As used in this section, "Internet website or web service" d. 30 includes any webpage, website, web service, online curriculum, or 31 online third party or open educational resource product that is made 32 available to enrolled students or the public by a school district, 33 charter school, or renaissance school through the Internet. 34 35 2. This act shall take effect immediately. 36 37 38 **STATEMENT** 39 40 This bill establishes accessibility standards for the Internet websites and web services of school districts, charter schools, and 41 renaissance schools ("public school"). 42 Specifically, the bill requires the Internet website and web 43 44 services of every public school to comply with the Web Content 45 Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.1 Level AA, or the most up-to-46 date version of the guidelines. The WCAG guidelines provide standards through which digital content may be accessible for 47 persons with disabilities. In June 2018, the WCAG 2.1 guidelines 48

were issued to improve accessibility guidance for three major
groups: users with cognitive or learning disabilities, users with low
vision, and users with disabilities on mobile devices.

4 Under the bill, the Commissioner of Education would be 5 required to establish a procedure for determining whether an 6 Internet website or web service complies with the WCAG 7 guidelines. The Office of Information Technology in the 8 Department of Education would be responsible for issuing 9 certifications of compliance to attest that an Internet website or web 10 service complies with these requirements.

11 The bill provides that when a public school establishes or 12 significantly improves an Internet website or web service after the effective date of this bill, the school would be required to receive a 13 14 certification of compliance from the office before the website may 15 be considered operational. The bill also requires the office to 16 recertify the compliance of each Internet website or web service operated by a public school every two years following initial 17 18 certification.

As defined in this bill, the term "Internet website or web service" includes any webpage, website, web service online curriculum, or online third party or open educational resource product that is made available to enrolled students or the public by a public school through the Internet.