

[Second Reprint]

**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)**

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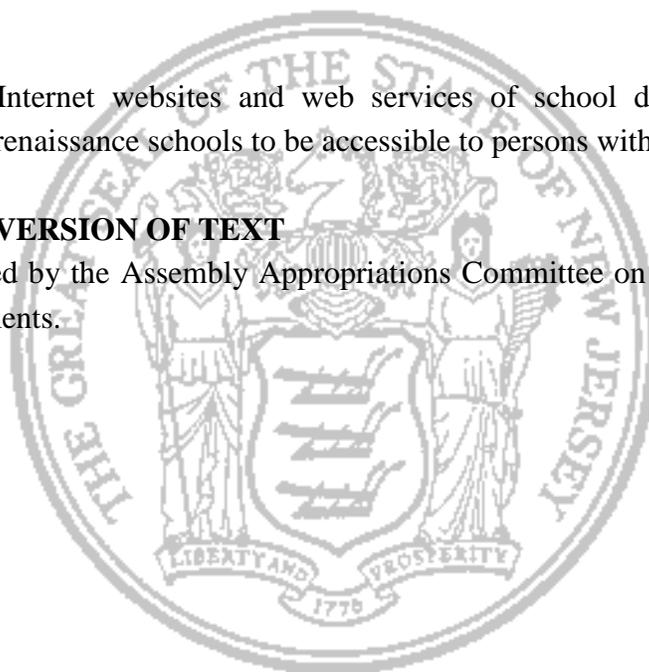
**Assemblywoman Vainieri Huttle, Assemblymen McClellan, Simonsen, Conaway, Verrelli, Assemblywoman Dunn, Assemblyman Dancer, Assemblywomen Jasey, Quijano, Reynolds-Jackson, Jimenez, Assemblyman Mejia, Assemblywomen Downey, Lopez, Timberlake and Assemblyman Freiman**

**SYNOPSIS**

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

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As reported by the Assembly Appropriations Committee on May 18, 2021, with amendments.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 5/20/2021)**

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. <sup>2</sup>**[Any Internet website or web service of a]** ~~No~~<sup>2</sup> school  
 9 district, charter school, <sup>1</sup>**[or]**<sup>1</sup> renaissance school <sup>1</sup>, or the Marie H.  
 10 Katzenbach School for the Deaf<sup>1</sup> shall <sup>2</sup>**[comply]** make available to  
 11 the enrolled students of the district or school or to the public an  
 12 Internet website or web service unless the Internet website or web  
 13 service complies<sup>2</sup> with the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines  
 14 (WCAG) 2.1 Level AA <sup>2</sup>**[,]**<sup>2</sup> or the most up-to-date version of the  
 15 guidelines <sup>2</sup>if the guidelines are approved by the Commissioner of  
 16 Education, or any other applicable guidelines or requirements as may  
 17 be designated or approved by the Commissioner of Education<sup>2</sup>.

18 b. The Commissioner of Education shall establish a procedure  
 19 to determine whether the Internet website or web service of a school  
 20 district, charter school, <sup>1</sup>**[or]**<sup>1</sup> renaissance school <sup>1</sup>, or the Marie H.  
 21 Katzenbach School for the Deaf<sup>1</sup> complies with the requirements of  
 22 this section. The <sup>2</sup>**[Office of Information Technology in the]**<sup>2</sup>  
 23 Department of Education shall be responsible for issuing  
 24 certifications of compliance, which certifications shall attest that an  
 25 Internet website or web service complies with the requirements of  
 26 <sup>1</sup>**[the]** this<sup>1</sup> section.

27 c. (1) If a school district, charter school, <sup>1</sup>**[or]**<sup>1</sup> renaissance  
 28 school <sup>1</sup>, or the Marie H. Katzenbach School for the Deaf<sup>1</sup>  
 29 establishes <sup>2</sup>**[or significantly improves]**<sup>2</sup> an Internet website or web  
 30 service after the effective date of this act, the public school shall  
 31 receive a certification of compliance from the <sup>2</sup>**[office before the**  
 32 **Internet website or web service may be considered operational]**  
 33 department<sup>2</sup>. <sup>2</sup>An Internet website or web service established by a  
 34 school district, charter school, renaissance school, or the Marie H.  
 35 Katzenbach School for the Deaf after the effective date of this act shall  
 36 be permitted to operate while pending receipt of a certification of  
 37 compliance from the department.<sup>2</sup>

38 (2) Every two years following <sup>2</sup>**[initial certification, the office**  
 39 **shall]** the effective date of this act, a school district, charter school,  
 40 renaissance school, or the Marie H. Katzenbach School for the Deaf  
 41 shall certify or<sup>2</sup> recertify the compliance of each Internet website or  
 42 web service operated by <sup>2</sup>**[a]** the<sup>2</sup> school district, charter school,  
 43 <sup>1</sup>**[or]**<sup>1</sup> renaissance school <sup>1</sup>, or the Marie H. Katzenbach School for  
 44 the Deaf<sup>1</sup> with the requirements of this section.

**EXPLANATION** – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

<sup>1</sup>Assembly AED committee amendments adopted January 25, 2021.

<sup>2</sup>Assembly AAP committee amendments adopted May 18, 2021.

1 d. <sup>2</sup>Nothing in this section shall be construed to bar, exclude, or  
2 otherwise affect any right or action that exists under the “Law Against  
3 Discrimination,” P.L.1945, c.169 (C.10:5-1 et seq.).

4 e.<sup>2</sup> As used in this section, “Internet website or web service”  
5 includes any webpage, website, web service, online curriculum, or  
6 online third party or open educational resource product that is made  
7 available to enrolled students or the public by a school district,  
8 charter school, <sup>1</sup>**or**<sup>1</sup> renaissance school <sup>1</sup>, or the Marie H.  
9 Katzenbach School for the Deaf<sup>1</sup> through the Internet.

10

11 2. This act shall take effect <sup>1</sup>**immediately** on the first day of  
12 the sixth month next following the date of enactment<sup>1 2</sup>, but the  
13 Commissioner of Education may take any anticipatory administrative  
14 action in advance as shall be necessary for the implementation of this  
15 act<sup>2</sup>.