

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2005.

May 26, 2005

The Honorable Michael E. Busch
Speaker of the House
State House
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Mr. Speaker:

In accordance with Article II, Section 17 of the Maryland Constitution, today I have vetoed House Bill 1142 – *Higher Education Institutions – Blind Individuals – Access to Technology*.

This bill requires governing boards of each institution of higher education to develop a nonvisual access clause in the procurement of computer-based instructional technology by January 1, 2007. The clause must be consistent with the standards developed by the Department of Budget and Management for use by State agencies.

Senate Bill 360, which was passed by the General Assembly and signed by me, accomplishes the same purpose. Therefore, it is not necessary for me to sign House Bill 1142.

Very truly yours,
Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr.
Governor

House Bill No. 1142

AN ACT concerning

Higher Education Institutions – Blind Individuals – Access to Technology

FOR the purpose of requiring the governing boards of public institutions of higher education to ~~ensure that certain contracts to purchase certain technology include a certain clause relating to nonvisual access; requiring the boards to ensure that certain blind individuals have access to certain technology and materials; requiring the Maryland Higher Education Commission, in consultation with the Department of Disabilities, to assist the public institutions of higher education with the application of a nonvisual access clause by developing certain guidelines on or before a certain date develop, by a certain date, a certain clause relating to nonvisual access for use in the procurement of certain technology; requiring the nonvisual access clause adopted by the governing bodies of certain institutions to be consistent with certain standards developed by the Department of Budget and Management; defining certain terms; and generally relating to nonvisual access standards for the procurement and use of technology for blind individuals by public institutions of higher education.~~