

(i) the information technology is not available with nonvisual access because the essential elements of the information technology are visual and nonvisual equivalence cannot be developed; or

(ii) the cost of modifying the information technology for compatibility with software and hardware for nonvisual access would increase the price of the procurement by more than 5 percent.

4-312.

Consistent with Division II of this article, the Secretary shall set standards for supplies to be purchased by a unit, INCLUDING STANDARDS FOR ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT USED BY STATE EMPLOYEES OR THE PUBLIC FOR COMMUNICATIONS THAT ARE CONSISTENT WITH THE STANDARDS FOR NONVISUAL ACCESS INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY ISSUED UNDER § 3-410 OF THIS ARTICLE.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, on or before January 1, ~~2001~~ 2003, the Chief of Information Technology of the Department of Budget and Management shall adopt the nonvisual access procurement standards required under § 3-410(d)(5) of the State Finance and Procurement Article as enacted under this Act.

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2000.

Approved May 18, 2000.

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**CHAPTER 620**

**(Senate Bill 607)**

AN ACT concerning

**State Procurement - Information Technology - Nonvisual Access**

FOR the purpose of requiring the Chief of Information Technology in the Department of Budget and Management to issue and enforce nonvisual access standards to be used in the procurement of information technology and the provision of information technology services by or on behalf of units of State government; requiring the adoption of the standards on or before a certain date; requiring the inclusion of a nonvisual access clause in each solicitation for bids or request for a proposal relating to a procurement or modification of a procurement; requiring the Chief and the Information Technology Board within the Department to extend a requirement that a nonvisual access clause be used in certain procurement to apply the requirement to the procurement of information technology services; providing an exception to a provision removing the need for a nonvisual access clause where nonvisual access requires a modification for compatibility with software and hardware; requiring the Secretary of Budget and Management to adopt standards for electronic equipment used by State employees or the public that are compatible with the nonvisual access procurement standards; defining a certain term; and generally relating to