

(3) can be integrated into networks for obtaining, retrieving, and disseminating information used by individuals who are not blind or visually impaired; and

(4) shall be obtained, whenever possible, without modification for compatibility with software and hardware for nonvisual access.

(b) (1) Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, the nonvisual access clause required under subsection (a) of this section shall be included in each invitation for bids or request for proposals AND IN EACH PROCUREMENT CONTRACT OR MODIFICATION OF A CONTRACT ISSUED UNDER TITLE 13 OF THIS ARTICLE, WITHOUT REGARD TO THE METHOD CHOSEN UNDER TITLE 13, SUBTITLE 1 [under Division II] of this article for the purchase of new or upgraded information technology AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SERVICES.

(2) [The] EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (A) (4) OF THIS SECTION, THE nonvisual access clause required under paragraph (1) of this subsection is not required if:

(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.