

Legislative Coordinating Commission

Legislative Commission on Data Practices

2017 - 2018 Legislative Commission on Data Practices Members

The commission consists of four senators appointed by the Senate Subcommittee on Committees of the Committee on Rules and Administration, and four members of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker.

House Members

Representative Peggy Scott, Chair

Representative John Lesch

Representative Eric Lucero

Representative Jennifer Schultz

Senate Members

Senator Warren Limmer, Vice Chair

Senator Susan Kent

Senator Scott Newman

Senator Dan Schoen

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Minnesota State Legislature

Website Accessibility

Is the Legislature's website accessible?

We continually refine our website in an effort to conform to accessibility standards and provide our online information in an accessible format.

Features

Text Sizing: In most Internet browsers, pressing Ctrl + Plus Sign (+) increases text size, and Ctrl + Minus Sign (-) decreases text size. Pressing the Ctrl key while scrolling up or down with the mouse wheel will also change the text size in most browsers. Alternatively, click the menu at the top of your browser and look for the "zoom" or "text size" option. This will present you with choices for scaling the text to your preferred size.

PDFs: For [PDFs](#) that are created within an office of the legislature, alternate formats or accessibly tagged PDFs are offered, when possible. If an accessible format is not immediately possible, the [legislature strives to support accessibility](#) on a case-by-case basis. Bills, session laws, statutes, and rules are offered in HTML as an alternate format to PDF.

Video: Web cast programming is captioned. See the [House video page](#) for live and archived House web cast coverage and see the [Senate Media Services page](#) for live and archived Senate web cast coverage.

Assistive Technology for our website: Screen reader software is installed on select public access computers in the Legislative Reference Library, room 645, State Office Building (JAWS and NVDA) and the Legislative Reference Library, room 3238, Minnesota Senate Building (NVDA). For more information about assistive technology, please see the [Minnesota Star Program](#) website.

E-Government Usability

If you have having accessibility or usability problems with any Minnesota state government website or software or if you have used a state website or software that works especially well for people with disabilities, please send your comments to us by using the [E-Government Usability/Accessibility Compliments and Concerns page](#)

More

Additional accessibility information is available in the [FAQ - Special Needs Access](#), which includes information about wheelchair-accessibility, services for those who are blind or visually impaired, and services for people who are deaf or hard of hearing, among other topics.

Heller handouts to Legislative Commission on Data Practices Meeting (LCDP). Tuesday, September 19, 2017
2:00 PM - 4:00 PM ; Location(s): <http://www.lcc.leg.mn/lcdp/meetings.html> ;

Goal. Creating some Protections for the welfare, in the name of Fairness, sameness and timely transparency

Senate File: 2120; Author : **Bakk**; Referred to State Government Finance and Policy and Elections ;
<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/bills/bill.php?b=Senate&f=SF2120&ssn=0&y=2017>
https://www.revisor.mn.gov/bills/text.php?number=SF2120&version=0&session=ls90&session_year=2017&session_number=0&format=pdf

House File : 1541; Author: **Thissen** ; Referred to Government Operation and Election Policy ;

Quote. "...

Section 1. [3.182] ACCESSIBILITY STANDARDS.

- 1.6 Each house must comply with the accessibility standards developed by the chief
- 1.7 information officer of the Office of MN.IT Services under section 16E.03, subdivision 9.
- 1.8 The committee in each house with jurisdiction over its rules:
- 1.9 (1) may modify these standards to prevent an undue burden, as defined in section 16E.015,
- 1.10 subdivision 4; and 1.11 (2) must develop a process for granting exemptions to these
- 1.11 standards.

End quote. Source(s): <https://www.revisor.mn.gov/bills/bill.php?f=HF1541&y=2017&ssn=0&b=house> ;

Also include nine(9) other sheets. Attached will be electronically sent to post online full accessible:

Sally Olson, Commission Assistant
Legislative Coordinating Commission(LCC)
651-296-9002 or sally.olson@lcc.leg.mn
<http://www.lcc.leg.mn/lcdp/staff.htm>

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(Named: Mn-LegislativeCommissionOnDataPractices+HellerHandout+Attachments9-19-2017.pdf)



Legislative Coordinating Commission

72 State Office Building St. Paul, MN 55155-1201 Phone: (651) 296-9002 Fax: (651) 297-3697 TDD (651) 296-9896

DATE: February 9, 2017

TO: Representative Dean Urdahl

FROM: Greg Hubinger, Legislative Coordinating Commission
Sally Olson, Legislative Coordinating Commission

RE: Website Accessibility Requirements

We understand you wanted the LCC to provide feedback regarding possible legislation suggested by Mr. Rick Heller that would require all recipients of legacy funding to comply with Minn. Stat. § 16E.03, Subdivision 9 related to web content accessibility.

State Accessibility Standards

The state accessibility standards ("standards") as referenced by Minn. Stat. § 16E.03, Subdivision 9 were put in place to ensure executive branch state agency websites, other technology applications, and planned hardware and software procurement are accessible. The state standards are based upon the federal standards. The federal standards are complex, incorporating the national industry developed standards of Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.0 and Section 508 Standards set by the US Access Board. Finally, the standards are continually changing as MnIT's chief information officer is statutorily required to review and incorporate any revisions to the national industry developed standards into the state standard.

Legacy Funding Recipients

Legacy funds are distributed to a variety of recipients ranging from large state agencies to small non-profit organizations, tribal governments and individuals. Currently, there are more than 16,000 funded projects reported to the legacy website maintained by the Legislative Coordinating Commission. The recipients of funding for approximately 11,000 of those reported projects are non-profit organizations or individuals.

While state agencies and some of the larger non-profit organizations that receive legacy funding may have the financial and administrative resources to comply with the state standards, it is likely that the smaller entities and individuals that receive legacy funding may not. Enacting this requirement could result in a significant burden for many recipients, particularly those that receive smaller amounts of funding, and may deter them from seeking legacy funding.

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We point out that the Legacy website maintained by the LCC has information on all projects that receive funding from the Legacy amendment and the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund. The Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council maintains a website that shows how Outdoor Heritage Funds have been used, as does the LCCMR for their projects. Many state agencies also maintain webpages that show how the legacy funds they have received have been spent. These legislative and state agency websites comply with accessibility standards.

Regulation

If this language were enacted it is unclear how this mandate would be enforced. We are unclear how compliance with the standards would be monitored by MnIT. We are also unclear what enforcement authority MnIT has with respect to non-state organizations. We suggest contacting MnIT, or that a fiscal note be requested so that the costs of monitoring and possible enforcement could be developed.

Conclusion

While it is in the best interest of all organizations with websites to ensure their websites are accessible, it would likely be challenging and burdensome for many of the recipients of legacy funding to meet the state's accessibility standards. Additionally, the process and cost for monitoring and enforcing compliance would likely impact MnIT staff and fiscal resources. Finally, access to information on legacy funded projects is readily available in an accessible format on the Legacy website, as well as many other websites.



STATE OF MINNESOTA

OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

LORI SWANSON
ATTORNEY GENERAL

March 17, 2015

102 STATE CAPITOL
ST. PAUL, MN 55155
TELEPHONE: (651) 296-6196

Mr. Rick Heller
1223 Marion Street
St. Paul, MN 55117

Dear Mr. Heller:

I thank you for your correspondence received on March 6, 2015.

You express your concern about the accessibility of certain records and proceedings at the Legislature. Specifically, you have concerns about the fact that the Legislature is exempt from the requirements of the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act, Minn. Stat. ch. 13. In addition, you have concerns about the fact that the Legislature's electronic records are not subject to the data accessibility requirements of Minn. Stat. § 16E.03. You believe that the exemption of the Legislature from these statutory requirements affects the transparency of Minnesota government.

It must be difficult for you to face barriers when you seek information that you believe should be more readily accessible.

You are correct that electronic data and records from the Legislature are not subject to the accessibility standards required of state agencies under Minn. Stat. § 16E.03, subd. 9. Similarly, the Legislature is not governed by the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act, but rather has its own rules governing data access. Statutory amendments would be necessary in order for these requirements to apply to the Legislature. Because the issues you raise require legislative changes, I recommend that you share your concerns with your state legislators as follows:

Senator John Marty
Capitol, Room 323
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155-1606
(651) 296-5645

Representative John Lesch
217 State Office Building
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155
(651) 296-4224

I thank you again for your correspondence.

Sincerely,

LAURA FLANDERS
Legal Assistant





Legislative Coordinating Commission

72 State Office Building St. Paul, MN 55155-1201 Phone: (651) 296-9002 Fax: (651) 297-3697 TDD (651) 296-9896

DATE: February 18, 2015

TO: Senator David Tomassoni
Chair, Senate Environment, Economic Development and Agriculture Budget Division

Representative Pat Garofalo
Chair, Job Growth & Energy Affordability Policy and Finance Committee

FROM: Greg Hubinger

RE: FY 16-17 appropriations to LCC: Dept of Commerce: Telecommunications Access Minnesota

For several years, the Legislative Coordinating Commission has received funding from the Telecommunications Access Minnesota Fund through the Department of Commerce. \$100,000 of this is used to pay for captioning of legislative webcasts of floor sessions and committee hearings each fiscal year. We request that this funding continue.

In each of the last four years, the LCC has received an additional \$50,000 per year to support a small grant program for state agencies to make their web based services more accessible. Working with an advisory committee, our office has provided 32 grants to 13 agencies for this purpose.

While we have worked well with agencies to implement this program, we believe it would be more appropriate for a state agency to manage this effort. MnIT, the Council on Disabilities, the Commission of Deaf, DeafBlind, and Hard of Hearing Minnesotans, the DHS Division of Deaf and Hard of Hearing, or the Department of Administration might all be possible managers for this grant program.

We would be glad to assist whatever agency assumes this responsibility.

Please let us know if you have any questions or need any more information.

Cc: Diane Henry-Wangenstein, LCC
Jay Wyatt, MnIT
Mary Hartnett, CDDHH



OFFICE OF THE REVISOR OF STATUTES

Minnesota Legislature

December 13, 2012

Rick Heller
1223 Marion Street
St. Paul, MN 55117

Dear Mr. Heller:

It is my understanding that you visited Diane Henry-Wangenstein on Monday, December 10, 2012, for an update on the concern you raised earlier this year regarding the inability of "Web Anywhere" to distinguish stricken words on bills posted to the Minnesota Legislature's website and to read PDFs posted to the web site. Please be assured that Ms. Henry-Wangenstein passed along your concerns both times in a timely manner, and that the Revisor's office is working on improvements.

During this 2012 interim, the Minnesota Legislature's website has undergone a major redesign. Because the Revisor's office has so many pages of material and just one web programmer, we are actually still in the process of rewriting the web pages that display bills and other legislative documents at this time. When this work is done in late December, we will test the accessibility of the new HTML and PDF pages with screen readers including "Web Anywhere." Because there are a number of commercially-available screen readers, it may be difficult to program our pages to interface with all them accurately, but we will give the task our best effort.

The Minnesota Legislature and the Office of the Revisor of Statutes are committed to ongoing improvement of the accessibility of our website. Improved accessibility is one of the goals for this 2012 redesign, and was also a goal in 2008 when the Revisor's office recoded CSS style sheets to improve accessibility, and the Legislative Reference Library extended those changes to the remainder of the legislative website. In 2009, the Commission of Deaf, Deaf Blind and Hard of Hearing Minnesotans gave the Minnesota Legislative Networking Group its Website Access Award for this work.

As you have called to our attention, there is still more work to be done. The remaining improvements also have a high level of programming difficulty, but we are striving to make improvements.

Sincerely,



Michele L. Timmons
Revisor of Statutes

Cc: Diane Henry-Wagensteen ✓
Tim Orr, Deputy Revisor for Information Services
Isaac Holmlund, Web Programmer