

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY
OFFICE OF FISCAL AND MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS**

301 State House
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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 7281

BILL NUMBER: HB 1724

NOTE PREPARED: Mar 24, 2003

BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: State and Local Purchases of Accessible Technology.

FIRST AUTHOR: Rep. Welch

FIRST SPONSOR: Sen. Ford

BILL STATUS: As Passed - Senate

FUNDS AFFECTED: X

X

GENERAL

DEDICATED

FEDERAL

IMPACT: State & Local

Summary of Legislation: This bill requires the state Information Technology Oversight Commission to adopt rules that conform to federal requirements for electronic and information technology accessibility. The bill mandates that the rules apply to all technology purchases and contracts of the executive, legislative, judicial, and administrative branches of state and local government. The bill expands the membership of a group that develops these state and local standards to include representatives of state and local government.

Effective Date: July 1, 2003.

Explanation of State Expenditures: *Information Technology Oversight Commission:* The bill would require the Commission to promulgate rules related to the purchase of accessible information technology products. Any administrative costs associated with the rulemaking process is expected to be absorbed using available resources.

All State Agencies: Depending on the rules issued by the Commission and the extent to which state agencies make changes to their current and future information technology product purchases, this bill could have a significant impact on the procurement costs of state agencies, including those of the legislative and judicial branch. The impact on state agencies' costs will also depend on the availability and cost of accessible technologies in the marketplace. The bill's impact on state purchases is unknown and will ultimately depend upon the specific action of the Information Technology Oversight Commission and individual agencies.

Background Information: The Commission currently issues standards related to the purchases of accessible hardware and software products. Executive branch agencies typically follow the standards issued by the Commission when the purchase price of an accessible product is less than 15% greater than the cost of a non-accessible item. If the price premium is greater than the 15%, the agency is typically granted a waiver. The Commission adopted the accessibility standards issued under Section 508 of the federal Rehabilitation Act in August of 2001.

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures: Local units would be subject to the bill's provisions.

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: All.

Local Agencies Affected: All.

Information Sources: Bill Pierce, Information Technology Oversight Commission, 232-2009.

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