

**SENATE**  
**STATE OF MINNESOTA**  
**EIGHTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE**

**S.F. No. 1243**

(SENATE AUTHORS: HAWJ and Westrom)

DATE	D-PG	OFFICIAL STATUS
03/11/2013	771	Introduction and first reading Referred to State and Local Government

1.1 A bill for an act  
 1.2 relating to technology accessibility; creating an advisory committee;  
 1.3 appropriating money; amending Minnesota Statutes 2012, section 16E.0475.  
 1.4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

1.5 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2012, section 16E.0475, is amended to read:

1.6 **16E.0475 ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR TECHNOLOGY STANDARDS**  
 1.7 **FOR ACCESSIBILITY AND USABILITY.**

1.8 Subdivision 1. **Membership.** (a) The Advisory Committee for Technology  
 1.9 Standards for Accessibility and Usability consists of ~~ten~~ 12 members, appointed as follows:

1.10 (1) the state chief information officer, or the state chief information officer's designee;

1.11 (2) a representative from State Services for the Blind, appointed by the commissioner  
 1.12 of employment and economic development;

1.13 (3) the commissioner of administration, or the commissioner's designee;

1.14 (4) a representative selected by the Minnesota system of technology to achieve  
 1.15 results program;

1.16 (5) a representative selected by the Commission of Deaf, DeafBlind, and  
 1.17 Hard-of-Hearing Minnesotans;

1.18 (6) the commissioner of education, or the commissioner's designee;

1.19 (7) the commissioner of health, or the commissioner's designee;

1.20 (8) the commissioner of human services, or the commissioner's designee;

1.21 (9) one representative from the Minnesota judicial system designated by the chief  
 1.22 justice; and

1.23 (10) one staff member from the legislature, appointed by the chair of the Legislative  
 1.24 Coordinating Commission.

2.1 (b) The advisory committee members listed under paragraph (a) shall recommend  
 2.2 two representatives with disabilities from the public who have expertise in accessible  
 2.3 technology and usability for membership, who must be approved and appointed by the  
 2.4 state chief information officer. The representatives will serve up to two years.

2.5 (c) The appointing authorities under this subdivision must use their best efforts to  
 2.6 ensure that the membership of the advisory committee includes at least four appointees  
 2.7 with disabilities, including at least one representative who is deaf, hard-of-hearing, or  
 2.8 deafblind and at least one representative who is blind.

2.9 (e) (d) The advisory committee shall elect a chair from its membership.

2.10 Subd. 2. **Duties.** (a) The advisory committee shall:

2.11 (1) assist the state chief information officer, or the state chief information officer's  
 2.12 designee, in developing a multiyear strategic plan for improving technology accessibility  
 2.13 and usability, which shall include goals and objectives for each year;

2.14 (2) review processes to be used for the evaluation or certification of accessibility of  
 2.15 technology against accessibility standards;

2.16 (2) (3) review the exception process and thresholds for any deviation from the  
 2.17 accessibility standards;

2.18 (3) ~~identify, in consultation with state agencies serving Minnesotans with disabilities,~~  
 2.19 ~~resources for training and technical assistance for state agency staff, including instruction~~  
 2.20 ~~regarding compliance with accessibility standards;~~

2.21 (4) ~~convene customer groups composed of individuals with disabilities to assist in~~  
 2.22 ~~implementation of accessibility standards;~~

2.23 (5) (4) review customer comments about accessibility and usability issues collected  
 2.24 by ~~State Services for the Blind~~ the Office of Enterprise Technology;

2.25 (6) ~~develop proposals for funding captioning of live videoconferencing, live~~  
 2.26 ~~Webcasts, Web streaming, podcasts, and other emerging technologies;~~

2.27 (7) ~~provide advice and recommendations regarding the technology accessibility~~  
 2.28 ~~program operation and objectives;~~

2.29 (8) (5) review applications for grants supporting accessibility and usability activities  
 2.30 and make recommendations regarding individual agency accessibility plans to the  
 2.31 Legislative Coordinating Commission;

2.32 (9) (6) review and make recommendations regarding new or amended technology  
 2.33 accessibility standards and policies;

2.34 (10) (7) review and make recommendations regarding assessments of progress in  
 2.35 implementing technology accessibility standards and usability standards; and

3.1 (8) serve as a strategic resource for the chief information officer and staff in  
 3.2 developing and implementing policies, practices, and otherwise operationalizing  
 3.3 technology accessibility and usability throughout the executive branch; and

3.4 ~~(11)~~ (9) consult with the chief information officer, if the chief information officer  
 3.5 determines that any technology accessibility standard poses an undue burden to the state.

3.6 (b) The ~~advisory committee~~ state chief information officer, or the state chief  
 3.7 information officer's designee, shall report to the chairs and ranking minority members  
 3.8 of the legislative committees with jurisdiction over state technology systems by January  
 3.9 15, 2014, and each year thereafter regarding the findings, progress, and recommendations  
 3.10 made by progress of the multiyear plan. The advisory committee under this subdivision.  
 3.11 The report shall include any draft legislation necessary to implement review and comment  
 3.12 on the committee's recommendations report.

3.13 Subd. 3. **Terms, compensation, and removal.** The terms, compensation, and  
 3.14 removal of members are governed by section 15.059.

3.15 Subd. 4. **Expiration.** This section expires June 30, ~~2013~~ 2019.

3.16 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective the day following final enactment.

3.17 Sec. 2. **TELECOMMUNICATIONS ACCESS MINNESOTA FUND;**  
 3.18 **APPROPRIATIONS.**

3.19 In addition to the appropriation authorized in Minnesota Statutes, section 237.52, the  
 3.20 following amounts are appropriated from the telecommunications access Minnesota fund:

3.21 (1) \$290,000 each year is appropriated to the chief information officer for the  
 3.22 purpose of coordinating technology accessibility and usability; and

3.23 (2) \$150,000 each year is appropriated to the Legislative Coordinating Commission  
 3.24 for the purpose of providing captioning of legislative activity on the commission's Web  
 3.25 site and for a consolidated access fund for other state agencies.

3.26 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective the day following final enactment.