

2015-2016 Regular Sessions

I N A S S E M B L Y

(PREFILED)

January 7, 2015

Introduced by M. of A. PRETLOW, WRIGHT, PERRY, ORTIZ -- Multi-Sponsored  
by -- M. of A. BRENNAN, DenDEKKER, LUPARDO, MARKEY -- read once and  
referred to the Committee on Corporations, Authorities and Commissions

AN ACT to amend the public service law and the state finance law, in  
relation to enacting the accessible electronic information act

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEM-  
BLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

1 Section 1. Short title. This act shall be known and may be cited as  
2 the "accessible electronic information act".

3 S 2. The public service law is amended by adding a new section 92-h to  
4 read as follows:

5 S 92-H. ACCESSIBLE ELECTRONIC INFORMATION; BLIND AND DISABLED PERSONS.

6 1. A QUALIFIED NOT-FOR-PROFIT ENTITY CAPABLE OF PROVIDING SUCH SERVICE  
7 SHALL PROVIDE AN ACCESSIBLE ELECTRONIC INFORMATION SERVICE FOR ELIGIBLE  
8 BLIND AND DISABLED PERSONS. THIS SERVICE SHALL BE PLANNED FOR CONTINUA-  
9 TION FROM YEAR TO YEAR AND MAKE MAXIMUM USE OF FEDERAL AND OTHER FUNDS  
10 AVAILABLE BY OBTAINING GRANT OR IN-KIND SUPPORT FROM APPROPRIATE  
11 PROGRAMS AND SECURING ACCESS TO LOW-COST INTERSTATE RATES FOR TELECOMMU-  
12 NICATIONS BY REIMBURSEMENT OR OTHERWISE.

13 2. AS USED IN THIS SECTION, THE FOLLOWING TERMS SHALL HAVE THE FOLLOW-  
14 ING MEANINGS, UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED:

15 (A) "ACCESSIBLE ELECTRONIC INFORMATION SERVICE" MEANS NEWS AND OTHER  
16 TIMELY INFORMATION (INCLUDING NEWSPAPERS) PROVIDED TO ELIGIBLE INDIVID-  
17 UALS FROM A MULTI-STATE SERVICE CENTER, USING HIGH-SPEED COMPUTERS AND  
18 TELECOMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY FOR INTERSTATE ACQUISITION OF CONTENT AND  
19 RAPID DISTRIBUTION IN A FORM APPROPRIATE FOR USE BY SUCH INDIVIDUALS;

20 (B) "BLIND AND DISABLED PERSONS" MEANS THOSE INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE  
21 ELIGIBLE FOR LIBRARY LOAN SERVICES THROUGH THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS AND  
22 THE STATE LIBRARY FOR THE BLIND AND PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED PURSUANT TO  
23 36 CFR 701.10(B);

EXPLANATION--Matter in ITALICS (underscored) is new; matter in brackets  
[ ] is old law to be omitted.

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1 (C) "DIRECTOR" MEANS THE DIRECTOR OF THE SELECTED NOT-FOR-PROFIT ENTI-  
2 TY;

3 (D) "QUALIFIED ENTITY" MEANS A NOT-FOR-PROFIT ENTITY WITHIN THIS STATE  
4 CAPABLE OF PROVIDING ACCESSIBLE ELECTRONIC INFORMATION SERVICES WHICH:

5 (I) PROVIDES INTERSTATE ACCESS FOR ELIGIBLE PERSONS TO READ DAILY  
6 NEWSPAPERS PRODUCING AUDIO EDITIONS BY COMPUTER, AND

7 (II) PROVIDES A MEANS OF PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION AND READER REGISTRA-  
8 TION ON THE INTERNET.

9 S 3. The state finance law is amended by adding a new section 99-w to  
10 read as follows:

11 S 99-W. ACCESSIBLE ELECTRONIC INFORMATION SERVICE FUND. 1. THERE IS  
12 HEREBY ESTABLISHED IN THE CUSTODY OF THE STATE COMPTROLLER A SPECIAL  
13 REVENUE FUND TO BE KNOWN AS THE "ACCESSIBLE ELECTRONIC INFORMATION  
14 SERVICE FUND".

15 2. NOTHING CONTAINED IN THIS SECTION SHALL PREVENT THE STATE FROM  
16 RECEIVING GRANTS, GIFTS OR BEQUESTS AND DEPOSITING THEM INTO THE ACCE-  
17 SIBLE ELECTRONIC INFORMATION SERVICE FUND ACCORDING TO LAW.

18 3. THE ACCESSIBLE ELECTRONIC INFORMATION SERVICE FUND SHALL BE ADMIN-  
19 ISTERED BY THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE  
20 DIRECTOR, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS SECTION.

21 4. THE TARGETED ACCESSIBILITY FUND, INC., ESTABLISHED BY THE PUBLIC  
22 SERVICE COMMISSION IN ITS "ORDER AND OPINION 98-10", MAY ALLOCATE FUNDS  
23 FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING ELECTRONIC DISTRIBUTION OF NEWSPAPERS,  
24 PERIODICALS, TIME SENSITIVE MATERIALS, AND OTHER INFORMATION WHICH MAY  
25 BE OF BENEFIT TO THE COMMUNITY.

26 S 4. This act shall take effect on the ninetieth day after it shall  
27 have become a law; provided, however, that effective immediately, the  
28 addition, amendment and/or repeal of any rule or regulation necessary  
29 for the implementation of this act on its effective date is authorized  
30 and directed to be made and completed on or before such effective date.