



102ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2021 and 2022

HB0855

Introduced 2/10/2021, by Rep. Ann M. Williams

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

New Act

Creates the Legislative Accessibility Act. Provides that the General Assembly shall make all efforts to increase the accessibility of the General Assembly for people with disabilities. Provides that the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President of the Senate shall each appoint an accessibility coordinator who, in consultation with the Architect of the Capitol, shall be responsible for addressing accessibility needs for his or her corresponding house. Provides that the Illinois General Assembly website shall include either an email address, webform, or other similar mechanism to request reasonable accommodations to meet the accessibility needs of people with disabilities attending legislative events. Establishes the General Assembly Accessibility Task Force. Provides for the membership and meetings of the Task Force. Provides that members and ex officio members of the Task Force shall serve without compensation. Provides administrative support for the Task Force. Provides that the Task Force shall examine issues concerning accessibility of persons with a disability. Requires the Task Force to make recommendations to the General Assembly concerning General Assembly accessibility no later than December 31, 2021. Repeals specified provisions January 1, 2023. Effective immediately.

LRB102 02788 RJF 12795 b

1 AN ACT concerning State government.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 1. Short title. This Act may be cited as the
5 Legislative Accessibility Act.

6 Section 5. General Assembly accessibility.

7 (a) The General Assembly shall make all efforts to
8 increase the accessibility of the General Assembly for people
9 with disabilities.

10 (b) The Speaker of the House of Representatives and the
11 President of the Senate shall each appoint an accessibility
12 coordinator who, in consultation with the Architect of the
13 Capitol, shall be responsible for addressing accessibility
14 needs for his or her corresponding house.

15 (c) The Illinois General Assembly website shall include
16 either an email address, webform, or other similar mechanism
17 to request reasonable accommodations to meet the accessibility
18 needs of people with disabilities attending legislative
19 events, including, but not limited to, all hearings and floor
20 proceedings.

21 Section 10. General Assembly Accessibility Task Force.

22 (a) There is hereby established the General Assembly

1 Accessibility Task Force. The Task Force shall be convened by
2 the Department of Central Management Services in coordination
3 with the Secretary of State.

4 (b) The Governor shall appoint no more than 15 members to
5 the Task Force, and shall include persons who self-identify as
6 having a disability and advocates for such persons. In
7 addition, the following State officials shall serve on the
8 Task Force as ex officio members: (i) the Secretary of State or
9 his or her designee; (ii) the Director of Central Management
10 Services or his or her designee; (iii) the Speaker of the House
11 of Representatives or his or her designee; (iv) the Minority
12 leader of the House of Representatives or his or her designee;
13 (v) the President of the Senate or his or her designee; and
14 (vi) the Minority Leader of the Senate or his or her designee.

15 (c) The Task Force shall convene as soon as practicable
16 after the effective date of this Act, and shall hold at least 2
17 meetings. Members and ex officio members of the Task Force
18 shall serve without compensation. The Department of Central
19 Management Services shall provide administrative and other
20 support to the Task Force.

21 (d) The Task Force shall examine issues concerning
22 accessibility of persons with a disability. No later than
23 December 31, 2021, the Task Force shall issue recommendations
24 to the General Assembly on what measures can be taken to
25 increase the accessibility of the General Assembly to persons
26 with a disability.

1 (e) This Section is repealed on January 1, 2023.

2 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
3 becoming law.