



93RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY
State of Illinois
2003 and 2004
SB2503

Introduced 2/3/2004, by John J. Cullerton

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

New Act

Creates the Accessible Voting Technology for the Blind Act of 2004. Requires that the State Board of Elections ensure that the voting technology and systems throughout the State provide blind and visually impaired voters access and privacy equivalent to that provided to other voters. Applies to equipment and technology as it is procured, upgraded, or replaced. Grants injunctive relief to a person injured by a violation of the Act. Effective immediately.

LRB093 17928 JAM 43611 b

FISCAL NOTE ACT
MAY APPLY

A BILL FOR

1 AN ACT concerning voting technology.

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 Accessible Voting Technology for the Blind Act of 2004.

6 Section 5. Definitions. As used in this Act:

7 "Access" means all of the following:

8 (1) The ability to retrieve all of the information
9 contained in the ballot.

10 (2) The ability to retrieve any instructional
11 information necessary for the effective casting of the
12 ballot, in the form of audible prompts, online help,
13 recorded materials, knowledgeable officials, or other
14 appropriate methods.

15 (3) The ability to make and verify all selections
16 contained in the ballot, including write in selections.

17 (4) The ability to move freely through all the
18 information contained in paragraphs (1), (2), and (3),
19 including, but not limited to, the ability to move both
20 forward and backward through all items, the ability to skip
21 items, the ability to determine the spelling of words, and
22 the ability to control the speed of synthesized speech.

23 "Privacy" means the same level of secrecy of the ballot and
24 voting process that is accorded to all voters, using visual and
25 nonvisual means.

26 "Nonvisual" means synthesized speech, Braille, and other
27 methods of information retrieval not requiring sight.

28 Section 10. Requirements for accessible voting technology
29 and systems.

30 (a) The State Board of Elections shall require (by
31 certification or otherwise) that the voting technology and

1 systems used by the State or any political subdivision provide
2 blind and visually impaired individuals with access and
3 privacy, that is equivalent to that provided to individuals who
4 are not blind or visually impaired, including the ability for
5 the voter to cast and verify all selections made by both visual
6 and nonvisual means.

7 (b) In requiring nonvisual access pursuant to subsection
8 (a), the State Board of Elections shall obtain recommendations
9 from representatives of blind consumer organizations, experts
10 in accessible software and hardware design, and any other
11 individual or organization the Board determines to be
12 appropriate.

13 Section 15. Existing technology and systems. Compliance
14 with this Act in regard to voting technology and systems
15 purchased prior to the effective date of this Act shall be
16 achieved at the time of procurement of an upgrade or
17 replacement of the existing equipment or systems.

18 Section 20. Action for injunction. A person injured by a
19 violation of this Act may maintain an action for injunctive
20 relief to enforce the terms of this Act.

21 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
22 becoming law.