



Sen. John J. Cullerton

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1 AMENDMENT TO SENATE BILL 2517

2 AMENDMENT NO. \_\_\_\_\_. Amend Senate Bill 2517 by replacing  
3 everything after the enacting clause with the following:

4 "Section 1. Short title. This Act may be cited as the  
5 Accessible Electronic Information Act.

6 Section 5. Legislative findings. The Legislature finds and  
7 declares all of the following:

8 (a) Thousands of citizens in this State have disabilities  
9 (including blindness or visual impairment) that prevent them  
10 from using conventional print material.

11 (b) The State fulfills an important responsibility by  
12 providing books and magazines prepared in Braille, audio, and  
13 large-type formats made available to eligible blind and  
14 disabled persons.

15 (c) The technology, transcription methods, and means of  
16 distribution used for these materials are labor-intensive and  
17 cannot support rapid dissemination to individuals in rural and  
18 urban areas throughout the State.

19 (d) Lack of direct and prompt access to information  
20 included in newspapers, magazines, newsletters, schedules,  
21 announcements, and other time-sensitive materials limits  
22 educational opportunities, literacy, and full participation in  
23 society by blind and disabled persons.

1 Section 10. Definitions. As used in this Act:

2 "Accessible electronic information service" means news and  
3 other timely information (including newspapers) provided to  
4 eligible individuals from a multi-state service center, using  
5 high-speed computers and telecommunications technology for  
6 interstate acquisition of content and rapid distribution in a  
7 form appropriate for use by such individuals.

8 "Blind and disabled persons" means those individuals who  
9 are eligible for library loan services through the Library of  
10 Congress and the State Library for the Blind and Physically  
11 Handicapped pursuant to 36 CFR 701.10(b).

12 "Director" means the State Librarian.

13 "Qualified entity" means an agency, instrumentality, or  
14 political subdivision of the State or a nonprofit organization  
15 that:

16 (1) provides interstate access for eligible persons to  
17 read daily newspapers by producing audio editions by  
18 computer; and

19 (2) provides a means of program administration and  
20 reader registration on the Internet.

21

22 Section 15. Accessible electronic information service  
23 program. The Director by rule shall develop and implement a  
24 program of grants to qualified entities for the provision of  
25 accessible electronic information service to blind and  
26 disabled persons throughout Illinois. The grants shall be  
27 funded through appropriations from the Accessible Electronic  
28 Information Service Fund established in Section 20.

29 Section 20. Accessible Electronic Information Service  
30 Fund.

31 (a) Before July 1 of each year, the Illinois Commerce  
32 Commission, in consultation with the Director, shall determine

1 the amount of funding necessary to support the program  
2 described in Section 15 during the next fiscal year and shall  
3 certify that amount to the State Treasurer.

4 (b) Each month, the State Treasurer shall transfer 1/12th  
5 of the amount determined under subsection (a) from the Digital  
6 Divide Elimination Infrastructure Fund into the Accessible  
7 Electronic Information Service Fund, a special fund created in  
8 the State treasury that may be appropriated only for the  
9 purposes of this Act. If moneys in the Digital Divide  
10 Elimination Infrastructure Fund are insufficient to meet the  
11 transfer requirements of this subsection, the Illinois  
12 Commerce Commission shall direct the Illinois  
13 Telecommunications Access Corporation, or its successor, to  
14 remit the amount of any insufficiency to the Director for  
15 deposit into the Accessible Electronic Information Service  
16 Fund from surcharges collected by the Corporation, or its  
17 successor, under Section 13-703 of the Public Utilities Act.

18 Section 90. The State Finance Act is amended by adding  
19 Section 5.625 as follows:

20 (30 ILCS 105/5.625 new)

21 Sec. 5.625. The Accessible Electronic Information Service  
22 Fund.

23 Section 95. The Public Utilities Act is amended by changing  
24 Section 13-301.3 as follows:

25 (220 ILCS 5/13-301.3)

26 (Section scheduled to be repealed on July 1, 2005)

27 Sec. 13-301.3. Digital Divide Elimination Infrastructure  
28 Program.

29 (a) The Digital Divide Elimination Infrastructure Fund is  
30 created as a special fund in the State treasury. All moneys in

1 the Fund shall be used, subject to appropriation, by the  
2 Commission to fund (i) the construction of facilities specified  
3 in Commission rules adopted under this Section and (ii) the  
4 accessible electronic information program, as provided in  
5 Section 20 of the Accessible Electronic Information Act. The  
6 Commission may accept private and public funds, including  
7 federal funds, for deposit into the Fund. Earnings attributable  
8 to moneys in the Fund shall be deposited into the Fund.

9 (b) The Commission shall adopt rules under which it will  
10 make grants out of funds appropriated from the Digital Divide  
11 Elimination Infrastructure Fund to eligible entities as  
12 specified in the rules for the construction of high-speed data  
13 transmission facilities in eligible areas of the State. For  
14 purposes of determining whether an area is an eligible area,  
15 the Commission shall consider, among other things, whether (i)  
16 in such area, advanced telecommunications services, as defined  
17 in subsection (c) of Section 13-517 of this Act, are  
18 under-provided to residential or small business end users,  
19 either directly or indirectly through an Internet Service  
20 Provider, (ii) such area has a low population density, and  
21 (iii) such area has not yet developed a competitive market for  
22 advanced services. In addition, if an entity seeking a grant of  
23 funds from the Digital Divide Elimination Infrastructure Fund  
24 is an incumbent local exchange carrier having the duty to serve  
25 such area, and the obligation to provide advanced services to  
26 such area pursuant to Section 13-517 of this Act, the entity  
27 shall demonstrate that it has sought and obtained an exemption  
28 from such obligation pursuant to subsection (b) of Section  
29 13-517. Any entity seeking a grant of funds from the Digital  
30 Divide Elimination Infrastructure Fund shall demonstrate to  
31 the Commission that the grant shall be used for the  
32 construction of high-speed data transmission facilities in an  
33 eligible area and demonstrate that it satisfies all other  
34 requirements of the Commission's rules. The Commission shall

1 determine the information that it deems necessary to award  
2 grants pursuant to this Section.

3 (c) The rules of the Commission shall provide for the  
4 competitive selection of recipients of grant funds available  
5 from the Digital Divide Elimination Infrastructure Fund  
6 pursuant to the Illinois Procurement Code. Grants shall be  
7 awarded to bidders chosen on the basis of the criteria  
8 established in such rules.

9 (d) All entities awarded grant moneys under this Section  
10 shall maintain all records required by Commission rule for the  
11 period of time specified in the rules. Such records shall be  
12 subject to audit by the Commission, by any auditor appointed by  
13 the State, or by any State officer authorized to conduct  
14 audits.

15 (Source: P.A. 92-22, eff. 6-30-01; 93-306, eff. 7-23-03.)

16 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon  
17 becoming law."