



DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

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TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEES ON JUDICIARY AND CONSUMER PROTECTION AND COMMERCE

Senate Bill 32 – Relating to the Uniform Electronic Legal Materials

The Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB) supports the intent of Senate Bill 32 – Relating to the Uniform Electronic Legal Materials and offers comments. This bill requires the establishment of authentication and other requirements for selected legal materials if they are published exclusively in electronic form. The bill does not require electronic publication.

DCAB is concerned that providing documents exclusively in electronic format does not contain provisions to ensure accessibility of such documents to individuals with disabilities. Specific areas of concern are:

- Page 5, line 7, the term “Public access” is used, but “public access” is not defined.
- Page 5, line 10, states that “... ___-7 shall ensure that the material is reasonably available for use by the public on a permanent basis.”

Rules implementing this law need to include how materials will be accessible to individuals with disabilities who request materials in a format other than the electronic version available on the agency website. The State, as a government entity, is required by Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) to provide equal access to information available to the public on the Internet to individuals with disabilities.

Our office is available to offer technical assistance to ensure electronic documents on the Internet are accessible to individuals with disabilities.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully submitted,

BARBARA FISCHLOWITZ-LEONG
Chairperson

FRANCINE WAI
Executive Director