***A note to readers: The Microsoft word version differs from the pdf version because it does not contain line numbers or material that was crossed out and deleted from the final version of the law. We have included a word version to provide greater access to the information. When you see material in all capital letters, it represents what was new when this particular bill was passed.***

(approved by Governor on May 16, 2013)

Chapter 470

(Senate Bill 461)

AN ACT concerning

Primary and Secondary Education – Online Courses and Services – Accessibility

FOR the purpose of requiring the development, review, and approval of certain online courses and services to include an assessment regarding the accessibility of the online course or service to certain individuals with disabilities; authorizing the State Department of Education to contract with a third party to develop and conduct certain assessments; authorizing the State Board of Education to set certain fees for certain assessments; and generally relating to the accessibility of online courses and services to individuals with disabilities, including the blind.

BY adding to

Article – Education

Section 7–1002(b)(3)

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2008 Replacement Volume and 2012 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

Article – Education

Section 7–1002(c)(1)

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2008 Replacement Volume and 2012 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article – Education

Section 7–1002(c)(2)

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2008 Replacement Volume and 2012 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article – Education

7–1002.

(b) (3) (i) The development, review, and approval of an online course or service conducted under this subsection shall include an assessment regarding the accessibility of the online course or service to individuals with disabilities, including the blind.

(ii) The Department or may contract with a third party to:

1. Develop an assessment regarding accessibility required under subparagraph (i) of this paragraph; or

2. Conduct an assessment of course accessibility required under subparagraph (i) of this paragraph that will determine the approval or denial status of the course and provide feedback to the course provider.

(c) (1) There is a Maryland Virtual Learning Opportunities Fund.

(2) The State Board may set reasonable fees for:

(i) Developing or reviewing online courses and services; [and]

(ii) Processing approvals for online courses and services;

(iii) Developing an assessment regarding the accessibility of an online course or service to individuals with disabilities, including the blind; and

(iv) Assessing an online course for its accessibility to individuals with disabilities, including the blind.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2013.

Approved by the Governor, May 16, 2013.