

## Summary of Changes/Additions

During the formal comment period for the proposed changes to the State Web Site rule, TAC §206 and the new rule for Electronic and Information Resources TAC §213, 10 agencies submitted comments that indicated they would incur significant costs unless changes were made. The following are the sections of the rule as published in the Texas Register, followed by a short summary of the issue from the agency comments and then the proposed change:

### TAC §206

§206.50 (1) Effective September 1, 2006 all new or redesigned Web pages/content shall comply with the following Texas Web accessibility standards/specifications, where applicable:

Comments: The rule did not address the exception by the executive director as stated in HB2819.

Proposed change: §206.50 (1) Effective September 1, 2006, unless an exception is approved by the executive director of the state agency, pursuant to §2054.460, Government Code, all new or redesigned Web pages/content shall comply with the following Texas Web accessibility standards/specifications, where applicable:

§206.50 (1) (B) Equivalent alternatives for any multimedia presentation shall be synchronized with the presentation.

(i) All training and informational video and multimedia productions which support the agency's mission, regardless of format, that contain speech or other audio information necessary for the comprehension of the content, shall be open or closed captioned. Audio-only Webcasts shall have a Web page available with the text of the information content.

(ii) All training and informational video and multimedia productions which support the agency's mission, regardless of format, that contain visual information necessary for the comprehension of the content, shall be audio described.

(iii) Display or presentation of alternate text presentation or audio descriptions shall be user-selectable unless permanent.

(iv) Providing captions of live/real time broadcasts of one-time meetings (board/committee meetings or training for a known audience) by some state agencies may impose a significant difficulty or expense. Each state agency may consider alternative forms of accommodation (covered in the State Web Site Guidelines under "Multimedia, Audio, and Video Files") or assess the need for an exception by their executive director, and how they will respond to public or employee requests for access. In considering exceptions, the agency shall comply with the requirements addressed in §2054.460, Government Code.

Comments: Providing captions for all Web casts of open meetings and training would add significant costs and not allow for other forms of accommodation.

Proposed change: §206.50 (1) (B) Upon receiving a request for accommodation of a Web cast of an open meeting (as defined in the Open Meetings Act, Chapter 551, Texas Government Code) or of training/informational video productions which support the agency's mission, each state agency which receives such a request for accommodation shall provide an alternative form(s) of accommodation in accordance with §§2054.456 and 2054.457, Government Code. (Examples of different technologies and forms of accommodation and additional information for state agencies to consider in the development of accessible training and informational video productions are available in the Accessibility Section of the State Web Site Guidelines under "Multimedia, Audio, and Video Files" available from <http://www.dir.state.tx.us>.)

§206.50 (2) Effective September 1, 2006 new Web page/site designs shall be tested using one or more §508 compliance tools in conjunction with manual procedures to validate compliance with the Texas Web accessibility standards. State agencies shall establish policies to monitor their Web site for compliance with the Texas Web accessibility standards. Additional information about testing tools and resources are in the State Web Site Guidelines that are available from <http://www.dir.state.tx.us>.

Comments: The rule did not address the exception by the executive director as stated in HB2819, and identify who was responsible for testing.

Proposed change: §206.50 (2) Effective September 1, 2006, unless an exception is approved by the executive director of the state agency pursuant to §2054.460, Government Code, new Web page/site designs shall be tested by the state agency using one or more §508 compliance tools in conjunction with manual procedures to validate compliance with the Texas Web accessibility standards. State agencies shall establish policies to monitor their Web site for compliance with the Texas Web accessibility standards. Additional information about testing tools and resources are in the State Web Site Guidelines that are available from <http://www.dir.state.tx.us>.

Comment: The ability to identify exceptions or emerging technologies was missing from the rule and this new clause complies with the requirements in HB2819.


Proposed addition §206.50(8)The lack of commercial availability of products, including computer software, and specific technologies that would impose a significant difficulty or expense on state agencies are identified under "Exceptions and Emerging Technologies" in the Accessibility Section of the State Web Site Guidelines available from <http://www.dir.state.tx.us>.

#### TAC §213

§213.1(4) Buy Accessible Wizard--a web-based application (<http://www.buyaccessible.gov>) that guides users through a process of gathering data and providing information about Electronic and Information Resources and §508 compliance.

Comment: As currently drafted, it was unclear if state agencies could use the new Buy Accessible Data Center that was just added by GSA. This change would cover this or any other new tools/resources.

Proposed change: §213.1(4) Buy Accessible Wizard--a web-based application

 (<http://www.buyaccessible.gov>) that guides users through a process of gathering data and providing information about Electronic and Information Resources and §508 compliance, or other tools/resources developed by or for the Federal Government to indicate product/service compliance with the Section 508 standards <<http://www.section508.gov>>.

§213.12. Video and Multimedia Products.

(b) All training and informational video and multimedia productions which support the agency's mission, regardless of format, that contain speech or other audio information necessary for the comprehension of the content, shall be open or closed captioned.

(c) All training and informational video and multimedia productions which support the agency's mission, regardless of format, that contain visual information necessary for the comprehension of the content, shall be audio described.

(d) Display or presentation of alternate text presentation or audio descriptions shall be user-selectable unless permanent.

Comment: Providing captions for all training classes would add significant costs and not allow for other forms of accommodation.

Proposed change: §213.12 (b) Upon receiving a request for accommodation of a Web cast of training/informational video productions which support the agency's mission, each state agency which receives such a request for accommodation shall provide an alternative form(s) of accommodation in accordance with §§2054.456 and 2054.457, Government Code. (Examples of different technologies and forms of accommodation and additional information for state agencies to consider in the development of accessible training and informational video productions are available in the Accessibility Section of the State Web Site Guidelines under "Multimedia, Audio, and Video Files" available from <http://www.dir.state.tx.us>.)

Delete (c) and (d)

§213.17(a) As of September 1, 2006 all electronic and information resources products developed or procured by a state agency for each project begun after August 31, 2006, shall comply with the applicable provisions of this subchapter, unless it would impose a significant difficulty or expense for the state agency.

Comments: The rule did not address the exception by the executive director as stated in HB2819 or the ability to identify exceptions or emerging technologies.

Proposed change: §213.17 (a) As of September 1, 2006, unless an exception is approved by the executive director of the state agency pursuant to §2054.460, Government Code, all electronic and information resources products developed or procured by a state agency for each project begun after August 31, 2006, shall comply with the applicable provisions of this subchapter, unless it would impose a significant difficulty or expense for the state agency. The lack of the commercial availability of products, including computer software, and specific technologies that would impose a significant difficulty or expense on state agencies are identified under "Exceptions and Emerging Technologies" in the Accessibility Section of the State Web Site Guidelines available from

<http://www.dir.state.tx.us>.

§213.17 (d) Nothing in this subchapter is intended to prevent the use of designs or technologies as alternatives to those prescribed in this subchapter provided they result in substantially equivalent or greater access to and use of a product for people with disabilities.

Comments: Several agencies indicated that the 508 language of "substantially equivalent or greater access" went beyond the intent of HB2819 ("ensure that state employees with disabilities have access to and the use of those resources comparable to the access and use available to state employees without disabilities" and "shall provide members of the public with disabilities who are seeking information or other services from the agency access to and the use of electronic and information resources comparable to the access and use provided to members of the public without disabilities").

Proposed change: §213.17 (d) Nothing in this subchapter is intended to prevent the use of designs or technologies as alternatives to those prescribed in this subchapter provided they result in substantially equivalent access to and use of a product for people with disabilities.

Make **better decisions** Increase **efficiency.** Maximize **productivity.**

**FREE TRIAL CD!**  
MapInfo Professional®

Digital Communities

SOLUTIONS FOR STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN THE INFORMATION AGE

**GOVERNMENT TECHNOLOGY**

Home News Publications GTC/Events Digital Communities Resources Advertise

News Home News Archive Newsletters Subscribe

Search

Current Issue [Subscribe](#)



ADVERTISEMENT

Solutions Library

ADVERTISEMENT

Resource Center for **INTERACTIVE GOVERNMENT**

ADVERTISEMENT

**QUEST SOFTWARE**

ADVERTISEMENT

SPONSORED LINKS

[Help Desk and Asset Management](#)

Your search for helpdesk and asset management software ends here. Trouble ticket tracking, knowledge management, software license tracking, IT asset management and much more. Get ServiceDesk Plus today! Check out the Free/Trial Versions Now!

[GroundWork--Open Source Network Monitoring](#)

Low-cost purchase and deployment, unrivaled flexibility, proven service and support, unmatched simplicity, and no vendor lock in. Tap into GroundWork's open source solution for IT monitoring.

[Windows Web Server IPS - \\$99.](#)

ThreatSentry Host Intrusion Prevention Software defends IIS against new and progressive attack techniques, protects network weak points and blocks system misuse. Version 2 now available. \$99 per server. Free 30-day trial.

[Batteries for Military Instruments by AtBatt.com](#)

AtBatt.com offers Duracell DR-35, DR-36, DR-201 and DR-202 batteries widely used in Military Applications. We offer special pricing and terms for Government orders.

[Telecom service inventories for Government](#)

An inventory of your voice, data, wireless and internet services is a key fundamental set of information necessary for efficient and cost effective telecom management. For more information about the benefits, visit our Netforce Consulting LLC website

[Buy a Link Now](#)

## Texas Web Sites, Call Centers to Meet Higher Standards of Accessibility

Oct 25, 2005 ■ By *Wayne Hanson*

As a result of [HB 2819](#), Texans with disabilities will have easier access to government services available through Web sites and call centers. The bill, signed by Gov. Perry, brings Texas state law into accord with federal section 508 standards, and that has become increasingly important said Dennis Borel, executive director of the [Coalition for Texans with Disabilities](#).

"In 2003 the Legislature replaced a bunch of field offices with call centers and Web sites, so that people with disabilities, instead of having face-to-face interviews, go through call centers or Web sites to apply for eligibility information. So that's why I felt the stakes were higher now."

- topics
- E-Government
  - GIS
  - Homeland Security
  - Integration & Collaboration
  - International
  - IT Consolidation
  - Justice & Public Safety
  - Local Government
  - Mobile Government
  - New Products
  - Policy
  - Privacy
  - Security
  - Social Services
  - Storage
  - Telecom
  - Transportation
  - Workforce

TexasTechnology  
A new magazine from  
Government Technology

**eNewsletters**  
Subscribe Today

**What's New at GT Magazine?**

viewpoints




**China's Censorship Policies Unaffected by WTO Membership**  
by John Eger  
"It is curious how the Chinese are getting to be such a major force in our lives and the world economy. And as they do, appear to be tightening the noose on things

Borel said there were some standards in place prior to passage of the bill, but said they were a mixed bag of odds and ends, and Borel's group wanted to bring them up to the "gold standard" for accessibility.



Borel said the bill got a lot of support from all branches of state government. "We got pretty good support from the agency that is implementing these standards, the Department of Information Resources. Once the bill was filed, they got in contact with us and made suggestions, and those suggestions were reasonable, and we kind of worked it together. The Texas Legislature is very difficult to pass legislation through, so the fact that we were able to do so speaks to support from individual legislators too."

ADVERTISEMENT

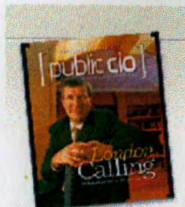
HP ProLiant BL40p Blade Server, featuring the Intel® Xeon™ Processor MP



» Download our free guide now

ADVERTISEMENT




Current Issue | Subscribe



HP ProLiant BL40p Blade Server, featuring the Intel® Xeon™ Processor MP



» Download our free guide now



ADVERTISEMENT

Part of pushing the bill, said Borel, was educating legislators. Consumers of electronic government services -- one with a visual impairment and one with quadriplegia -- helped legislators understand some of the barriers and what could be done. The Senate passed it in a deadline photo finish, said Borel. "And once the governor got it he was very positive about it."

Borel said the results of passage were apparent immediately. "The bill directed state agencies to develop new standards based on federal section 508. Right now they've published them and are seeking public comment, so they are moving quite rapidly on them. Meanwhile, I'm aware that other state agencies are putting out requests for people to work on their Web sites â?; so it's moving remarkably quick."

Support from many different quarters helped get the bill through and passed, said Borel, but even if it had been an uphill battle, the Coalition for Texans With Disabilities was ready. Several members had climbed Mt. Everest a few years before, and at HB 2819's passage, a bottle of spirits brought back from that Everest expedition was cracked open for the celebration.

**Wayne Hanson**

**SPONSORED LINKS**

**Help Desk and Asset Management**  
Your search for helpdesk and asset management software ends here. Trouble ticket tracking, knowledge management, software license tracking, IT asset management and much more. Get ServiceDesk Plus today! Check out the Free/Trial Versions Now!

**GroundWork--Open Source Network Monitoring**  
Low-cost purchase and deployment, unrivaled flexibility, proven service and support, unmatched simplicity, and no vendor lock in. Tap into GroundWork's open source solution for IT monitoring.

**Windows Web Server IPS - \$99.**  
ThreatSentry Host Intrusion Prevention Software defends IIS against new and progressive attack techniques, protects network weak points and blocks system misuse. Version 2 now available. \$99 per server. Free 30-day trial.

**Batteries for Military Instruments by AtBatt.com**  
AtBatt.com offers Duracell DR-35, DR-36, DR-201 and DR-202 batteries widely used in Military Applications. We offer special pricing and terms for Government orders.

**Telecom service inventories for Government**  
An inventory of your voice, data, wireless and internet services is a key fundamental set of information necessary for efficient and cost effective telecom management. For more information about the benefits, visit our Netforce Consulting LLC website

[Buy a Link Now](#)

Sponsored by **ORACLE**

**Integration & Collaboration Toolkit**

A comprehensive collection of over 100 assets and resources found all in one place.

ADVERTISEMENT

**ONE CRISIS STEMMED. ANOTHER AVERTED.**

Rely on access to data. Especially when you need it most.



ADVERTISEMENT