

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to the law as it existed prior to this session of the General Assembly.

1 State of Arkansas  
2 87th General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2009

# A Bill

SENATE BILL 36

4  
5 By: Senator R. Thompson  
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## For An Act To Be Entitled

8  
9 AN ACT TO CLARIFY THE LAW REGARDING INFORMATION  
10 TECHNOLOGY ACCESS FOR THE BLIND; AND FOR OTHER  
11 PURPOSES.  
12

## Subtitle

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14 AN ACT TO CLARIFY THE LAW REGARDING  
15 INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY ACCESS FOR THE  
16 BLIND.  
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19 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
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21 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 25-26-203 is amended to read as follows:  
22 25-26-203. Assurance of nonvisual access.

23 ~~(a)~~ In general, the head of each covered entity shall ensure that  
24 information technology equipment and software used by employees, program  
25 participants, or members of the general public:

26 (1) Provide blind or visually impaired individuals with  
27 reasonable accommodations toward access, including, ~~but not limited to~~  
28 without limitation, interactive use of the equipment and services ~~which is~~  
29 ~~equivalent to~~ that is as close as is technologically feasible to equivalence  
30 with that provided to individuals who are not blind or visually impaired;

31 (2) Are designed to present information, including, ~~but not~~  
32 ~~limited to~~ without limitation, prompts used for interactive communications in  
33 formats intended for both visual and nonvisual use; and

34 (3) Have been purchased under a contract which includes the  
35 technology access clause required ~~pursuant to~~ under § 25-26-204.  
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SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 25-26-204(b) is amended to read as follows:

(b) The nonvisual access standards established by the state pursuant to subsection (a) of this section shall include such specifications as are necessary to fulfill the assurances in § 25-26-203 and shall include the following minimum specifications:

(1) That effective, interactive control and use of the technology, including, ~~but not limited to~~ without limitation, the operating system, applications programs, and format of the data presented, is readily achievable by nonvisual means;

(2) That the technology equipped for nonvisual access must be compatible with information technology used by other individuals with whom the blind or visually impaired individual must interact;

(3) That nonvisual access technology must be integrated into networks used to share communications among employees, program participants, and the public; and

(4) That the technology for nonvisual access ~~must have the capability of providing~~ shall provide blind or visually impaired individuals with equipment and services that are as close as is technologically feasible to equivalent access by nonvisual means to telecommunications or other interconnected network services used by persons who are not blind or visually impaired.