

Bill: SB 68 - Disability Litigation Amendments

Sponsor: Senator Brammer

Floor Sponsor: Representative Abbott

UASD Position: Track

This Bill addresses website access litigation brought under the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Discussion: The sponsor stated that the Bill is intended to address abusive litigation related to website accessibility under the Americans with Disabilities Act (“ADA”). The Bill would require that, before a law firm files a lawsuit alleging ADA noncompliance for a website, the claimant must provide notice to the defending party with sufficient detail to identify and cure the website access violation of ADA noncompliance. The defending party then must attempt, in good faith, to cure the website access violation within 30 days after the day on which the defending party received the written notice, or cure the website access violation within 90 days after the day on which the defending party received the written notice.

Representative Miller asked whether the Bill would be preempted by federal law. The sponsor responded that providing an opportunity to cure is not preempted by the ADA, noting that similar notice-and-cure provisions have been adopted in other states and upheld. Representative Acton asked how a website might fail to meet ADA accessibility requirements. The sponsor explained that accessibility issues can include failing to provide screen reader compatibility for blind users, lacking audio translation features, missing captioning or readable formats for deaf users, or otherwise not meeting standard accessibility guidelines.

The Disability Law Center expressed concerns with the Bill, stating that there is not currently a significant problem within the state and cautioned that the legislation could have a chilling effect by discouraging individuals from bringing legitimate claims. The organization also questioned whether the notice-and-cure provision would be permissible under the ADA.

Yeas: 8

Nays: 2

N/V: 1

Outcome: SB 68 passed out of the Committee with a favorable recommendation.