

SB20-039**Update Accessibility Signage At State-owned Facilities***Sen. Fields & Story / Reps. Roberts & Valdez*

Capital Development Committee Bill

*Passed Senate State Affairs 5-0**Passed full Senate 31-1*

BILL SUMMARY: The bill requires any state-owned facility that contains five thousand or more gross square feet and that is constructed with a commencement date on or after the effective date of this bill, acquired on or after the effective date of this bill, or substantially renovated with a commencement date on or after the effective date of this bill to **use updated accessibility signage that depicts an accessible icon with a more dynamic character who leans forward in the wheelchair and who shows a sense of movement.**

FACTS:

- Only applies to state-owned buildings that contain 5,000 or more square feet
- Replaces traditional symbol of accessibility icon of a person in a wheelchair with a more dynamic icon showing a person leaning forward with a sense of movement (signs referred to as Dynamic Accessibility Signs)
- Requires all newly built, acquired, or renovated facilities to use Dynamic Accessibility Signs - not a total replacement of all signs
 - Only need to do this when new construction or renovation occurs and they would need to replace the sign anyway
- No Fiscal Impact

**BACKGROUND:**

The International Symbol of Accessibility (ISA) depicts a stylized white line image of a person in a wheelchair on a square blue background. These Dynamic Accessibility signs with the new dynamic accessibility symbol show an active, engaged person in a wheelchair, rather than the traditional handicapped wheelchair symbol. The Dynamic Accessibility symbol has been embraced in Connecticut and New York as well as some cities, schools, businesses, and other organizations. This symbol does not match ADA handicap sign standards, but the group promoting it says it is permissible under Section 103 because the symbol clearly displays a wheelchair and signifies accessibility.

PROPOSED BENEFITS:

This is part of a worldwide movement to show those who use wheelchairs or have other disabilities are active people who interact with the world, not passive people who do not move. History shows that the shape and form of what people see and hear works on a person's cognitive understanding of the world. Something as simple as a slight icon change can change the way people feel about those with disabilities. It's an easy change with positive impacts.