



SPONSOR: Sen. Huxtable & Rep. Parker Selby  
Sens. Hansen, Sokola, Wilson; Reps. Baumbach, Bush,  
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DELAWARE STATE SENATE  
152nd GENERAL ASSEMBLY

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 164

DESIGNATING MAY 16, 2024, AS “GLOBAL ACCESSIBILITY AWARENESS DAY” IN THE STATE OF  
DELAWARE.

1 WHEREAS, 2024 marks the 13<sup>th</sup> Global Accessibility Awareness Day (GAAD), which takes place on the third  
2 Thursday of May each year, aimed at raising awareness about digital accessibility and promoting inclusive design practices  
3 as 1 billion people worldwide have disabilities; and

4 WHEREAS, the purpose of GAAD is to get people talking, thinking, and learning about digital access and  
5 inclusion. By highlighting the barriers faced by individuals with disabilities in accessing information and technology,  
6 GAAD promotes inclusivity and encourages efforts to design products and services that are useable by everyone, regardless  
7 of ability; and

8 WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that approximately 26 percent of  
9 Americans have disabilities, and up to 24 percent of Delaware residents have a disability; and

10 WHEREAS, using technology can be challenging for those who live with visual impairments, hearing  
11 impairments, or other disabilities; and

12 WHEREAS, the goal of GAAD is to encourage web developers and designers to ensure computers, websites,  
13 social media, and mobile phone applications are accessible to all and to encourage designers and developers to think  
14 creatively about how to make technology more accessible to a diverse range of users, driving innovation and improving the  
15 user experience for everyone; and

16 WHEREAS, technology and the internet have become integral parts of everyday life and GAAD provides an  
17 opportunity for designers, developers, and other stakeholders to learn about accessibility best practices and techniques for  
18 designing inclusive digital experiences; and

19 WHEREAS, Delaware’s Government Information Center (GIC) and Department of Technology and Information  
20 (DTI) are working to make state government electronic information and technology accessible to those who live with visual  
21 impairments and other disabilities; and

22 WHEREAS, it is necessary to ensure that technology is accessible for everyone, and GAAD fosters collaboration  
23 and dialogue to ensure this by providing a platform for sharing knowledge and reminding organizations of their obligations

24 to ensure their digital content and technology comply with accessibility standards and guidelines, reducing the risk of  
25 discrimination and legal challenges; and

26 WHEREAS, “Global Accessibility Awareness Day” plays a crucial role in promoting digital inclusion,  
27 empowering individuals with disabilities, raising awareness, driving innovation, and fostering collaboration to create a  
28 more accessible and inclusive digital world for all.

29 NOW, THEREFORE:

30 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the 152nd General Assembly of the State of Delaware, the House of  
31 Representatives concurring therein, that the General Assembly affirms the importance of making the internet and  
32 technology accessible to all, and hereby designates May 16, 2024, as “Global Accessibility Awareness Day” in the State of  
33 Delaware.

34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the General Assembly encourages expanded efforts to keep Delaware  
35 residents properly informed about the need for equitable digital access and inclusion.

#### SYNOPSIS

This resolution designates May 16, 2024, as "Global Accessibility Awareness Day" in the State of Delaware, affirms the importance of making the internet and technology accessible to all, and encourages expanded efforts to keep Delaware residents properly informed about the need for equitable digital access and inclusion.

Author: Senator Huxtable