

In January of 2014, Public Act 98-224 became effective which required CDB to update the 1997 Illinois Accessibility Code (IAC) and model the updates on the 2010 Federal ADA Standards for Accessible Design (ADA). The purpose of rewriting the Illinois Accessibility Code is to provide a comprehensive document that includes all ADA and Illinois amendments. Currently both must be complied with and there are minor inconsistencies between the two.

Updating the IAC was a huge undertaking for our agency and the others that assisted with this. The process began in early of 2014 when we formed a small working group to assist with the update. The group is comprised of two people from the Capital Development Board, two representatives from the Attorney General's Office, a representative from the Illinois Department of Transportation, a member representing the design industry and two members from the disability community. We then contracted with a vendor that specializes in code development to provide a comparison of the IAC and the ADA which he used to draft the new IAC.

Prior to finalizing the Code for submission to the Board, we sought feedback from other state agencies, industry partners, code officials, organizations representing people with disabilities and other groups. All comments have been evaluated by our working group and responses were sent back to all individuals that commented.

Illinois has always been a leader in accessibility requirements. In keeping with this direction, we altered some sections of the Code to keep the same level of stringency. Those alterations included changes to the administrative section to tie it to Illinois' Environmental Barriers Act (EBA), updates to code and standard references, additional and modified definitions to keep the Code consistent with our EBA and also to assist the Attorney General's Office with enforcement. Many other sections were also altered which add language from our current IAC including requirements for historic facilities and multi-story housing buildings and facilities.

Also included in the Code is Accessibility Guidelines for Pedestrian Facilities in the Public Right-of-Way as Chapter 11. These guidelines address access for blind pedestrians at street crossings, wheelchair access to on-street parking, and various constraints posed by space limitations, roadway design practices, slope, and terrain. The new guidelines will cover pedestrian access to sidewalks and streets, including crosswalks, curb ramps, street furnishings, pedestrian signals, parking, and other components of public rights-of-way. The guidelines have not yet been adopted by the Department of Justice, but with the understanding that they will be and to provide the most comprehensive Code that we could, they were included in our draft.

The revised Illinois Accessibility Code has been filed with the Secretary of State and published in the Illinois Register to begin the rulemaking process in accordance with Illinois Administrative Procedure Act [5 ILCS 100]. To review this document, please use this link, http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/index/register/volume42/register_volume42_issue6.pdf . Comments on the revised Illinois Accessibility Code can be submitted to Lisa Mattingly until March 26, 2018. Please email comments or questions to CDB.BuildingCodes@illinois.gov or Lisa.Mattingly@illinois.gov .