

105TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 4461

To amend the Technology-Related Assistance for Individuals With Disabilities Act of 1988 to provide for the establishment of a national public Internet site for increased access to information on technology-related assistance under that Act.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

AUGUST 6, 1998

Mr. DEAL of Georgia (for himself and Mr. GINGRICH) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

A BILL

To amend the Technology-Related Assistance for Individuals With Disabilities Act of 1988 to provide for the establishment of a national public Internet site for increased access to information on technology-related assistance under that Act.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Assistive Technology
5 Information Act of 1998”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS; PURPOSE.**

7 (a) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds the following:

1 (1) Assistive technology devices and services en-
2 able individuals with disabilities to assume greater
3 control over their lives and to contribute more fully
4 to society.

5 (2) Rapid advancements in assistive technology
6 continue to provide important new tools to help indi-
7 viduals with disabilities to become more independent
8 and participate in activities related to home, school,
9 work, and community.

10 (3) Although substantial progress has been
11 made in both the development of new assistive tech-
12 nology devices and the transfer and adaptation of
13 existing assistive technology, information relating to
14 assistive technology devices is often difficult to find
15 and inconsistent.

16 (b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this Act is to estab-
17 lish a national public Internet site to provide to individuals
18 with disabilities and the general public increased access
19 to information on technology-related assistance and other
20 related disability resources under title II of the Tech-
21 nology-Related Assistance for Individuals With Disabil-
22 ities Act of 1988 (29 U.S.C. 2231 et seq.), including infor-
23 mation on assistive technology devices and assistive tech-
24 nology services.

1 **SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF NATIONAL PUBLIC INTERNET**
2 **SITE FOR INCREASED ACCESS TO INFORMA-**
3 **TION UNDER THE TECHNOLOGY-RELATED AS-**
4 **SISTANCE FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABIL-**
5 **ITIES ACT OF 1988.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—Title II of the Technology-Related
7 Assistance for Individuals With Disabilities Act of 1988
8 (29 U.S.C. 2231 et seq.) is amended—

9 (1) by redesignating subtitle C as subtitle D;

10 (2) by redesignating section 221 as section 231;

11 and

12 (3) by inserting after subtitle B the following:

13 **“Subtitle C—Internet Site for In-**
14 **creased Access to Information**
15 **on Technology-Related Assist-**
16 **ance**

17 **“SEC. 221. ESTABLISHMENT OF INTERNET SITE.**

18 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the
19 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall enter
20 into a contract with an institution of higher education de-
21 scribed in subsection (b) to establish a national public
22 Internet site for the purpose of providing to individuals
23 with disabilities and the general public increased access
24 to information on technology-related assistance and other
25 related disability resources under this Act, including infor-

1 mation on assistive technology devices and assistive tech-
2 nology services.

3 “(b) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—An in-
4 stitution of higher education described in this subsection
5 is an institution of higher education that has a curriculum
6 focus in science and engineering at the undergraduate and
7 graduate education levels and that has an existing multi-
8 disciplinary research center and with demonstrated exper-
9 tise in—

10 “(1) assistive technology and ‘intelligent agent’
11 interactive information dissemination systems;

12 “(2) managing libraries of assistive technologies
13 and disability resources;

14 “(3) delivering education, information, and re-
15 ferral services to individuals with disabilities, includ-
16 ing technology-based curriculum development for
17 adults with low-level reading skills;

18 “(4) developing cooperative partnerships with
19 the private sector, particularly with private sector
20 computer software and hardware and Internet serv-
21 ices entities; and

22 “(5) advanced Internet site development and
23 design.

1 “(c) FEATURES OF INTERNET SITE.—The national
2 public Internet site described in subsection (a) shall con-
3 tain the following features:

4 “(1) Any member of the public may obtain in-
5 formation posted on the site at any time.

6 “(2) The site shall be constructed with an inno-
7 vative automated ‘intelligent agent’ that is a diag-
8 nostic tool for assisting users in problem definition
9 and the selection of appropriate assistive technology
10 devices and assistive technology services resources.

11 “(3)(A) The site shall include access to a com-
12 prehensive working library on assistive technology
13 for all environments, including the home, workplace,
14 transportation, and other environments.

15 “(B) The site shall include resources for the
16 largest number of disabilities, including resources re-
17 lating to low-level reading skills.

18 “(4) To the extent feasible, relevant private sec-
19 tor resources and information shall be linked to the
20 site under agreements developed between the univer-
21 sity and cooperating private sector entities.

22 **“SEC. 222. APPLICATION.**

23 “The Secretary may not enter into a contract under
24 section 221 with an institution of higher education unless
25 the institution submits to the Secretary an application in

1 such form and containing such information as the Sec-
 2 retary may require.

3 **“SEC. 223. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

4 “(a) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be ap-
 5 propriated to carry out this subtitle—

6 “(1) \$1,042,000 for fiscal year 1999;

7 “(2) \$1,023,000 for fiscal year 2000;

8 “(3) \$998,000 for fiscal year 2001;

9 “(4) \$543,000 for fiscal year 2002; and

10 “(5) \$565,000 for fiscal year 2003.

11 “(b) AVAILABILITY.—Amounts authorized to be ap-
 12 propriated under subsection (a) are authorized to remain
 13 available until expended.

14 **“SEC. 224. DEFINITION.**

15 “As used in this subtitle, the term ‘Internet’ means
 16 the international computer network of both Federal and
 17 non-Federal interoperable packet-switched data net-
 18 works.”.

19 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 231 of
 20 such Act, as redesignated by subsection (a)(2), is amended
 21 by inserting “(except subtitle C)” after “to carry out this
 22 title”.

○