

## CHAPTER 31—ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES

Sec.	
3001.	Findings and purposes.
3002.	Definitions.
3003.	State grants for assistive technology.
3004.	State grants for protection and advocacy services related to assistive technology.
3005.	National activities.
3006.	Administrative provisions.
3007.	Authorization of appropriations.
3008.	Authorization of appropriations; reservations and distribution of funds.
3011 to 3058.	Omitted.

### § 3001. Findings and purposes

#### (a) Findings

Congress finds the following:

(1) Over 54,000,000 individuals in the United States have disabilities, with almost half experiencing severe disabilities that affect their ability to see, hear, communicate, reason, walk, or perform other basic life functions.

(2) Disability is a natural part of the human experience and in no way diminishes the right of individuals to—

- (A) live independently;
- (B) enjoy self-determination and make choices;
- (C) benefit from an education;
- (D) pursue meaningful careers; and
- (E) enjoy full inclusion and integration in the economic, political, social, cultural, and educational mainstream of society in the United States.

(3) Technology is one of the primary engines for economic activity, education, and innovation in the Nation, and throughout the world. The commitment of the United States to the development and utilization of technology is one of the main factors underlying the strength and vibrancy of the economy of the United States.

(4) As technology has come to play an increasingly important role in the lives of all persons in the United States, in the conduct of business, in the functioning of government, in the fostering of communication, in the conduct of commerce, and in the provision of education, its impact upon the lives of individuals with disabilities in the United States has been comparable to its impact upon the remainder of the citizens of the United States. Any development in mainstream technology will have profound implications for individuals with disabilities in the United States.

(5) Substantial progress has been made in the development of assistive technology devices, including adaptations to existing devices that facilitate activities of daily living that significantly benefit individuals with disabilities of all ages. These devices, including adaptations, increase involvement in, and reduce expenditures associated with, programs and activities that facilitate communication, ensure independent functioning, enable early childhood development, support educational achievement, provide and enhance employment options, and enable full participation in community living for individuals with disabilities. Access to such devices can also reduce

expenditures associated with early childhood intervention, education, rehabilitation and training, health care, employment, residential living, independent living, recreation opportunities, and other aspects of daily living.

(6) Over the last 15 years, the Federal Government has invested in the development of comprehensive statewide programs of technology-related assistance, which have proven effective in assisting individuals with disabilities in accessing assistive technology devices and assistive technology services. This partnership between the Federal Government and the States provided an important service to individuals with disabilities by strengthening the capacity of each State to assist individuals with disabilities of all ages meet their assistive technology needs.

(7) Despite the success of the Federal-State partnership in providing access to assistive technology devices and assistive technology services, there is a continued need to provide information about the availability of assistive technology, advances in improving accessibility and functionality of assistive technology, and appropriate methods to secure and utilize assistive technology in order to maximize the independence and participation of individuals with disabilities in society.

(8) The combination of significant recent changes in Federal policy (including changes to section 794d of this title, accessibility provisions of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (42 U.S.C. 15301 et seq.) [now 52 U.S.C. 20901 et seq.], and the amendments made to the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.) by the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001) and the rapid and unending evolution of technology require a Federal-State investment in State assistive technology systems to continue to ensure that individuals with disabilities reap the benefits of the technological revolution and participate fully in life in their communities.

#### (b) Purposes

The purposes of this chapter are—

(1) to support State efforts to improve the provision of assistive technology to individuals with disabilities through comprehensive statewide programs of technology-related assistance, for individuals with disabilities of all ages, that are designed to—

(A) increase the availability of, funding for, access to, provision of, and training about assistive technology devices and assistive technology services;

(B) increase the ability of individuals with disabilities of all ages to secure and maintain possession of assistive technology devices as such individuals make the transition between services offered by educational or human service agencies or between settings of daily living (for example, between home and work);

(C) increase the capacity of public agencies and private entities to provide and pay for assistive technology devices and assistive technology services on a statewide basis for individuals with disabilities of all ages;

(D) increase the involvement of individuals with disabilities and, if appropriate, their

family members, guardians, advocates, and authorized representatives, in decisions related to the provision of assistive technology devices and assistive technology services;

(E) increase and promote coordination among State agencies, between State and local agencies, among local agencies, and between State and local agencies and private entities (such as managed care providers), that are involved or are eligible to be involved in carrying out activities under this chapter;

(F) increase the awareness and facilitate the change of laws, regulations, policies, practices, procedures, and organizational structures, that facilitate the availability or provision of assistive technology devices and assistive technology services; and

(G) increase awareness and knowledge of the benefits of assistive technology devices and assistive technology services among targeted individuals and entities and the general population; and

(2) to provide States with financial assistance that supports programs designed to maximize the ability of individuals with disabilities and their family members, guardians, advocates, and authorized representatives to obtain assistive technology devices and assistive technology services.

(Pub. L. 105-394, § 2, Nov. 13, 1998, 112 Stat. 3628; Pub. L. 108-364, § 2, Oct. 25, 2004, 118 Stat. 1707; Pub. L. 117-263, div. E, title LIV, § 5402, Dec. 23, 2022, 136 Stat. 3260.)

#### AMENDMENT OF SECTION

*Pub. L. 117-263, div. E, title LIV, §§ 5402, 5403, Dec. 23, 2022, 136 Stat. 3260, 3289, provided that, effective on the day that is 6 months after Dec. 23, 2022, this section is amended to read as follows:*

#### § 3001. Purposes

*The purposes of this chapter are to—*

*(1) to support State efforts to improve the provision of assistive technology to individuals with disabilities of all ages, including underrepresented populations, through comprehensive statewide programs of technology-related assistance that are designed to—*

*(A) increase the availability of, funding for, access to, provision of, and education about assistive technology devices and assistive technology services;*

*(B) increase the ability of individuals with disabilities to secure and maintain possession of assistive technology devices as such individuals make the transition between services offered by educational or human service agencies or between settings of daily living (for example, between home and work);*

*(C) increase the capacity of public agencies and private entities to provide and pay for assistive technology devices and assistive technology services on a statewide basis for individuals with disabilities;*

*(D) increase the involvement of individuals with disabilities and, if appropriate, their family members, guardians, advocates, and authorized representatives, in decisions related to the*

*provision of assistive technology devices and assistive technology services;*

*(E) increase and promote coordination among and between State and local agencies and private entities (such as managed care providers), that are involved in carrying out activities under this chapter;*

*(F) increase the awareness and facilitate the change of laws, regulations, policies, practices, procedures, and organizational structures that facilitate the availability or provision of assistive technology devices and assistive technology services; and*

*(G) increase awareness and knowledge of the benefits of assistive technology devices and assistive technology services among targeted individuals and entities and the general population; and*

*(2) to provide States and protection and advocacy systems with financial assistance that supports programs designed to maximize the ability of individuals with disabilities and their family members, guardians, advocates, and authorized representatives to obtain assistive technology devices and assistive technology services.*

*See 2022 Amendment note below.*

#### Editorial Notes

##### REFERENCES IN TEXT

The Help America Vote Act of 2002, referred to in subsec. (a)(8), is Pub. L. 107-252, Oct. 29, 2002, 116 Stat. 1666, which was formerly classified principally to chapter 146 (§15301 et seq.) of Title 42, The Public Health and Welfare, prior to editorial reclassification and renumbering in Title 52, Voting and Elections, and is now classified principally to chapter 209 (§20901 et seq.) of Title 52. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Tables.

The Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, referred to in subsec. (a)(8), is Pub. L. 89-10, Apr. 11, 1965, 79 Stat. 27, which is classified generally to chapter 70 (§6301 et seq.) of Title 20, Education. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 6301 of Title 20 and Tables.

The No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, referred to in subsec. (a)(8), is Pub. L. 107-110, Jan. 8, 2002, 115 Stat. 1425. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title of 2002 Amendment note set out under section 6301 of Title 20, Education, and Tables.

##### AMENDMENTS

2022—Pub. L. 117-263 amended section catchline and text generally. Prior to amendment, text consisted of subsecs. (a) and (b) relating to findings and purposes.

2004—Pub. L. 108-364 amended section catchline and text generally. Prior to amendment, text consisted of subsecs. (a) and (b) relating to findings and purposes.

#### Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

##### EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2022 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 117-263, div. E, title LIV, § 5403, Dec. 23, 2022, 136 Stat. 3289, provided that: “This title [see Short Title of 2022 Amendment note set out below], and the amendments made by this title, shall take effect on the day that is 6 months after the date of enactment of this Act [Dec. 23, 2022].”

##### SHORT TITLE OF 2022 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 117-263, div. E, title LIV, § 5401, Dec. 23, 2022, 136 Stat. 3260, provided that: “This title [enacting section 3008 of this title, amending this section and sec-

tions 3002 to 3007 of this title, and enacting and amending provisions set out as notes under this section] may be cited as the ‘21st Century Assistive Technology Act.’”

#### SHORT TITLE OF 2004 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 108-364, §1, Oct. 25, 2004, 118 Stat. 1707, provided that: “This Act [enacting sections 3003 to 3007 of this title, amending this section, sections 763, 781, 792, and 3002 of this title, and sections 15024, 15025, 15043, and 15064 of Title 42, The Public Health and Welfare, omitting sections 3011 to 3015, 3031 to 3037, and 3051 to 3058 of this title, and amending provisions set out as a note under this section] may be cited as the ‘Assistive Technology Act of 2004.’”

#### SHORT TITLE

Pub. L. 105-394, §1(a), Nov. 13, 1998, 112 Stat. 3627, as amended by Pub. L. 108-364, §2, Oct. 25, 2004, 118 Stat. 1707; Pub. L. 117-263, div. E, title LIV, §5402, Dec. 23, 2022, 136 Stat. 3260, provided that: “This Act [enacting this chapter] may be cited as the ‘Assistive Technology Act of 1998.’”

### § 3002. Definitions

In this chapter:

#### (1) Adult service program

The term “adult service program” means a program that provides services to, or is otherwise substantially involved with the major life functions of, individuals with disabilities. Such term includes—

(A) a program providing residential, supportive, or employment services, or employment-related services, to individuals with disabilities;

(B) a program carried out by a center for independent living, such as a center described in part C of title VII of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 796f et seq.);

(C) a program carried out by an employment support agency connected to adult vocational rehabilitation, such as a one-stop partner, as defined in section 3102 of this title; and

(D) a program carried out by another organization or vender licensed or registered by the designated State agency, as defined in section 7 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 705).

#### (2) American Indian consortium

The term “American Indian consortium” means an entity that is an American Indian Consortium (as defined in section 102 of Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000 (42 U.S.C. 15002)), and that is established to provide protection and advocacy services for purposes of receiving funding under subtitle C of title I of such Act (42 U.S.C. 15041 et seq.).

#### (3) Assistive technology

The term “assistive technology” means technology designed to be utilized in an assistive technology device or assistive technology service.

#### (4) Assistive technology device

The term “assistive technology device” means any item, piece of equipment, or product system, whether acquired commercially, modified, or customized, that is used to in-

crease, maintain, or improve functional capabilities of individuals with disabilities.

#### (5) Assistive technology service

The term “assistive technology service” means any service that directly assists an individual with a disability in the selection, acquisition, or use of an assistive technology device. Such term includes—

(A) the evaluation of the assistive technology needs of an individual with a disability, including a functional evaluation of the impact of the provision of appropriate assistive technology and appropriate services to the individual in the customary environment of the individual;

(B) a service consisting of purchasing, leasing, or otherwise providing for the acquisition of assistive technology devices by individuals with disabilities;

(C) a service consisting of selecting, designing, fitting, customizing, adapting, applying, maintaining, repairing, replacing, or donating assistive technology devices;

(D) coordination and use of necessary therapies, interventions, or services with assistive technology devices, such as therapies, interventions, or services associated with education and rehabilitation plans and programs;

(E) training or technical assistance for an individual with a disability or, where appropriate, the family members, guardians, advocates, or authorized representatives of such an individual;

(F) training or technical assistance for professionals (including individuals providing education and rehabilitation services and entities that manufacture or sell assistive technology devices), employers, providers of employment and training services, or other individuals who provide services to, employ, or are otherwise substantially involved in the major life functions of individuals with disabilities; and

(G) a service consisting of expanding the availability of access to technology, including electronic and information technology, to individuals with disabilities.

#### (6) Capacity building and advocacy activities

The term “capacity building and advocacy activities” means efforts that—

(A) result in laws, regulations, policies, practices, procedures, or organizational structures that promote consumer-responsive programs or entities; and

(B) facilitate and increase access to, provision of, and funding for, assistive technology devices and assistive technology services, in order to empower individuals with disabilities to achieve greater independence, productivity, and integration and inclusion within the community and the workforce.

#### (7) Comprehensive statewide program of technology-related assistance

The term “comprehensive statewide program of technology-related assistance” means a consumer-responsive program of technology-related assistance for individuals with disabilities, implemented by a State, and equally