

Public Law 100-407
100th Congress

An Act

Aug. 19, 1988
[S. 2561]

To establish a program of grants to States to promote the provision of technology-related assistance to individuals with disabilities, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

Technology-
Related
Assistance for
Individuals With
Disabilities Act
of 1988.
29 USC 2201
note.
29 USC 2201.

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Technology-Related Assistance for Individuals With Disabilities Act of 1988".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.

(a) **FINDINGS.**—The Congress makes the following findings:

(1) During the past decade, there have been major advances in modern technology. Technology is now a powerful force in the lives of most residents of the United States.

(2) For all individuals, technology can provide important tools for making the performance of tasks quicker and easier.

(3) For some individuals with disabilities, assistive technology is a necessity that enables them to engage in or perform many tasks. The provision of assistive technology devices and assistive technology services enables some individuals with disabilities to—

(A) have greater control over their own lives;

(B) participate in and contribute more fully to activities in their home, school, and work environments, and in their communities;

(C) interact to a greater extent with nondisabled individuals; and

(D) otherwise benefit from opportunities that are taken for granted by individuals who do not have disabilities.

(4) Although the development of assistive technology devices designed to assist individuals with disabilities is still in its early stages, there already exist a substantial number of assistive technology devices, including simple adaptations to existing equipment, that could significantly benefit, in all major life activities, individuals of all ages with disabilities. Such devices, including adaptations, could be used in programs and activities such as early intervention, education, rehabilitation and training, employment, residential living, independent living, recreation, and other aspects of daily living.

(5) The use of assistive technology devices and services by individuals with disabilities can reduce the costs of the disabilities to society, individuals with disabilities, and families of individuals with disabilities by reducing expenditures associated with early intervention, education, rehabilitation, health care, transportation, telecommunication services, and other services required by individuals with disabilities.

(6) Many individuals with disabilities do not have access to the assistive technology devices and assistive technology serv-

ices that such individuals need to allow such individuals to function in society commensurate with their abilities. States do not have comprehensive programs for making available technology-related assistance to individuals with disabilities. There is a lack of—

(A) resources to pay for such devices and services;

(B) trained personnel to provide such devices and services and to assist individuals with disabilities to use such devices and services;

(C) information about the potential of technology available to individuals with disabilities, the families or representatives of individuals with disabilities, individuals who work for public agencies and private entities that have contact with individuals with disabilities (including insurers), employers, and other appropriate individuals;

(D) coordination among existing State human services programs, and among such programs and private agencies, particularly with respect to transitions between such programs and agencies; and

(E) capacity of such programs to provide the necessary technology-related assistance.

(7) There are insufficient incentives for the commercial pursuit of the application of technology devices to meet the needs of individuals with disabilities, because of limited markets.

(8) At the Federal level, there is a lack of coordination among agencies that provide or pay for the provision of assistive technology devices and assistive technology services. Also, the Federal Government does not provide adequate assistance and information with respect to the use of assistive technology devices and assistive technology services to individuals with disabilities, the families or representatives of individuals with disabilities, individuals who work for public agencies and private entities that have contact with individuals with disabilities (including insurers), employers, and other appropriate individuals.

(b) **PURPOSES.**—The purposes of this Act are as follows:

(1) To provide financial assistance to the States to help each State to develop and implement a consumer-responsive statewide program of technology-related assistance for individuals of all ages with disabilities that is designed to—

(A) increase awareness of the needs of individuals with disabilities for assistive technology devices and assistive technology services;

(B) increase awareness of policies, practices, and procedures that facilitate or impede the availability or provision of assistive technology devices and assistive technology services;

(C) increase the availability of and funding for the provision of assistive technology devices and assistive technology services for individuals with disabilities;

(D) increase awareness and knowledge of the efficacy of assistive technology devices and assistive technology services among individuals with disabilities, the families or representatives of individuals with disabilities, individuals who work for public agencies and private entities that have contact with individuals with disabilities (including insurers), employers, and other appropriate individuals;

(E) increase the capacity of public and private entities to provide technology-related assistance, particularly assistive technology devices and assistive technology services, and to pay for the provision of assistive technology devices and assistive technology services;

(F) increase coordination among State agencies and public and private entities that provide technology-related assistance, particularly assistive technology devices and assistive technology services; and

(G) increase the probability that individuals of all ages with disabilities will, to the extent appropriate, be able to secure and maintain possession of assistive technology devices as such individuals make the transition between services offered by human service agencies or between settings of daily living.

(2) To facilitate—

(A) the identification of Federal policies that facilitate payment for assistive technology devices and assistive technology services for individuals with disabilities;

(B) the identification of Federal policies that impede such payment; and

(C) the elimination of inappropriate barriers to such payment.

(3) To enhance the ability of the Federal Government to provide the States with—

(A) technical assistance, information, and training and public awareness programs relating to the provision of assistive technology devices and assistive technology services; and

(B) funding for model demonstration and innovation projects.

29 USC 2202.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

For purposes of this Act:

(1) **ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY DEVICE.**—The term “assistive technology device” means any item, piece of equipment, or product system, whether acquired commercially off the shelf, modified, or customized, that is used to increase, maintain, or improve functional capabilities of individuals with disabilities.

(2) **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 needs of an individual with a disability, including a functional evaluation of the individual in the individual’s customary environment;

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

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

(D) coordinating and using other therapies, interventions, or services with assistive technology devices, such as those associated with existing education and rehabilitation plans and programs;

(E) training or technical assistance for an individual with disabilities, or, where appropriate, the family of an individual with disabilities; and

(F) training or technical assistance for professionals (including individuals providing education and rehabilitation services), employers, or other individuals who provide services to, employ, or are otherwise substantially involved in the major life functions of individuals with disabilities.

(3) **INDIVIDUAL WITH DISABILITIES.**—The term “individual with disabilities” means any individual—

(A) who is considered to have a disability or handicap for the purposes of any Federal law other than this Act or for the purposes of the law of the State in which the individual resides; and

(B) who is or would be enabled by assistive technology devices or assistive technology services to maintain a level of functioning or to achieve a greater level of functioning in any major life activity.

(4) **INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.**—The term “institution of higher education” has the meaning given such term in section 435(b) of the Higher Education Act of 1965, and includes community colleges receiving funding under the Tribally Controlled Community College Assistance Act of 1978 (25 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.).

(5) **SECRETARY.**—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Education.

(6) **STATE.**—Except as otherwise provided, the term “State” means each of the several States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands.

(7) **TECHNOLOGY-RELATED ASSISTANCE.**—The term “technology-related assistance” means functions performed and activities carried out under section 101 that accomplish the purposes described in section 2(b)(1).

(8) **UNDERSERVED GROUP.**—The term “underserved group” means any group of individuals with disabilities who, because of disability, place of residence, geographic location, age, race, sex, or socioeconomic status, have not historically sought, been eligible for, or received technology-related assistance.

TITLE I—GRANTS TO STATES

SEC. 101. PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.

29 USC 2211.

(a) **GRANTS TO STATES.**—The Secretary of Education shall make grants to States in accordance with the provisions of this title to assist States to develop and implement consumer-responsive comprehensive statewide programs of technology-related assistance that accomplish the purposes described in section 2(b)(1).

(b) **FUNCTIONS OF PROGRAMS.**—Any State that receives a grant under this title may accomplish the purposes described in section 2(b)(1) by carrying out any of the following functions:

(1) **IDENTIFICATION AND NEEDS ASSESSMENT.**—Identification of individuals with disabilities (including individuals from underserved groups) who reside in the State and the conduct of an

Contracts.

ongoing evaluation of the needs of such individuals for technology-related assistance, which may be based on existing data.

(2) **IDENTIFICATION AND COORDINATION OF RESOURCES.**—Identification and coordination of Federal and State policies, resources, and services relating to the provision of assistive technology devices and assistive technology services to individuals with disabilities, including entering into interagency agreements.

(3) **PROVISION OF ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY DEVICES AND ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY SERVICES.**—Provision of assistive technology devices and assistive technology services to individuals with disabilities and payment for the provision of assistive technology devices and assistive technology services.

(4) **DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION.**—Dissemination of information relating to technology-related assistance and sources of funding for assistive technology devices and assistive technology services to individuals with disabilities, the families or representatives of individuals with disabilities, individuals who work for public agencies and private entities that have contact with individuals with disabilities (including insurers), employers, and other appropriate individuals.

(5) **TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.**—Provision of training and technical assistance relating to assistive technology devices and assistive technology services to individuals with disabilities, the families or representatives of individuals with disabilities, individuals who work for public agencies and private entities that have contact with individuals with disabilities (including insurers), employers, and other appropriate individuals.

(6) **PUBLIC AWARENESS PROGRAM.**—Conduct of a public awareness program focusing on the efficacy and availability of assistive technology devices and assistive technology services for individuals with disabilities.

(7) **ASSISTANCE TO STATEWIDE AND COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS.**—Provision of assistance to statewide and community-based organizations or systems that provide assistive technology services to individuals with disabilities.

(8) **PARTNERSHIPS AND COOPERATIVE INITIATIVES.**—Support of the establishment or continuation of partnerships and cooperative initiatives between the public sector and the private sector to facilitate the development and implementation of a statewide program of technology-related assistance for individuals with disabilities.

(9) **QUALIFICATIONS OF STAFF.**—Taking actions to develop standards, or where appropriate, apply existing standards to ensure the availability of qualified personnel.

(10) **PROGRAM DATA.**—Compilation and evaluation of appropriate data relating to the program.

(11) **PROCEDURES FOR INVOLVEMENT OF CONCERNED INDIVIDUALS.**—The establishment of procedures providing for the active involvement of individuals with disabilities, the families or representatives of such individuals, and other appropriate individuals in the development and implementation of the program, and for the active involvement, to the maximum extent appropriate, of individuals with disabilities who use assistive technology devices and assistive technology services in decisions

relating to such assistive technology devices and assistive technology services.

(12) **OTHER FUNCTIONS.**—Any other functions the Secretary considers appropriate.

(c) **AUTHORIZED ACTIVITIES.**—In carrying out the functions described in subsection (b), any State may use amounts made available to the State under a grant under this title for activities including the following:

(1) **MODEL DELIVERY SYSTEMS.**—The State may support model systems for the delivery of assistive technology devices and assistive technology services to individuals with disabilities that if successful could be replicated or made generally applicable. Any such system may include—

(A) the purchase, lease, or other acquisition of assistive technology devices and assistive technology services or payment for the provision of assistive technology devices and assistive technology services;

(B) the use of counselors, including peer counselors, to assist individuals with disabilities and the families of individuals with disabilities to obtain assistive technology devices and assistive technology services;

(C) the involvement of individuals with disabilities or, if appropriate, families or representatives of individuals with disabilities in decisions related to the provision of assistive technology devices and assistive technology services to individuals with disabilities; and

(D) the evaluation of the efficacy of the particular model delivery system involved.

(2) **STATEWIDE NEEDS ASSESSMENT.**—The State may conduct a statewide needs assessment, which may be based on existing data and may include—

(A) estimates of the numbers of individuals with disabilities within the State, categorized by residence, type and extent of disabilities, age, race, gender, and ethnicity;

(B) a description of efforts during the fiscal year ending before the date of the enactment of this Act to provide assistive technology devices and assistive technology services to individuals with disabilities within the State, including—

(i) the number of individuals with disabilities who received appropriate assistive technology devices and assistive technology services; and

(ii) a description of the devices and services provided;

(C) the number of individuals with disabilities who are in need of assistive technology devices and assistive technology services, and a description of the devices and services needed;

(D) the cost of providing assistive technology devices and assistive technology services to all individuals with disabilities within the State who need such devices and services;

(E) a description of State and local public resources and private resources (including insurance) that are available to establish a statewide program of technology-related assistance for individuals with disabilities;

(F) the identification of State and Federal policies that facilitate or interfere with the operation of a statewide program of technology-related assistance;

Loans.

(G) a description of—

(i) alternative State-financed systems of subsidies for the provision of assistive technology devices and assistive technology services, including—

(I) a loan system for assistive technology devices;

(II) a low-interest loan fund;

(III) a revolving fund;

(IV) a loan insurance program; and

(V) a partnership with private entities for the purchase, lease, or other acquisition of assistive technology devices or the provision of assistive technology services; and

(ii) a description of the eligibility criteria for such a system;

(H) a description of the State's procurement policies and the extent to which such policies will ensure, to the extent practicable, that assistive technology devices purchased, leased, or otherwise acquired with assistance under a grant under this title are compatible with other technology devices, including technology devices designed primarily for use by individuals without disabilities, elderly individuals, or individuals with particular disabilities; and

Insurance.

(I) an inquiry into whether it is advantageous for either a State agency or a task force (composed of individuals representing the State and individuals representing the private sector) to study the practices of private insurance companies holding licenses within the State that offer health or disability insurance policies under which an individual may obtain reimbursement for—

(i) the purchase, lease, or other acquisition of assistive technology devices; or

(ii) the use of assistive technology services.

(3) **SUPPORT GROUPS.**—The State may encourage the creation or maintenance of statewide or community-based organizations or systems that assist individuals with disabilities to use assistive technology devices or assistive technology services, or support any existing organization or system that provides such assistance.

(4) **PUBLIC AWARENESS PROGRAM.**—The State may support a public awareness program designed to provide information relating to the availability and efficacy of assistive technology devices and assistive technology services for individuals with disabilities, the families or representatives of individuals with disabilities, individuals who work for public agencies and private entities that have contact with individuals with disabilities (including insurers), employers, and other appropriate individuals, or may establish and support such a program if no such program exists. Such a program may include—

(A) the development and dissemination of information relating to—

(i) the nature of assistive technology devices and assistive technology services;

(ii) the appropriateness, cost, and availability of, and access to assistive technology devices and assistive technology services; and

(iii) the efficacy of assistive technology devices and assistive technology services with respect to enhancing the capacity of individuals with disabilities;

(B) procedures for providing direct communication between public providers of assistive technology devices and assistive technology services and private providers of such devices and services (including employers); and

(C) the development and dissemination of information relating to—

(i) use of the program by individuals with disabilities, families or representatives of individuals with disabilities, and professionals who work in the field of technology-related assistance, and other appropriate individuals; and

(ii) the nature of the inquiries made by the individuals described in clause (i).

(5) **TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.**—The State may provide directly or support public or private training and technical assistance activities relating to the use of assistive technology devices and assistive technology services to individuals with disabilities, the families or representatives of individuals with disabilities, individuals who work for public agencies and private entities that have contact with individuals with disabilities (including insurers), employers, and other appropriate individuals.

(6) **ACCESS TO TECHNOLOGY-RELATED INFORMATION.**—The State may develop, operate, or expand a system for public access to information concerning technology-related assistance, including information about assistive technology devices and assistive technology services, funding sources, costs, and individuals, organizations, and agencies capable of providing technology-related assistance to individuals with disabilities. In developing, operating, or expanding a system described in the preceding sentence, the State may—

(A) develop, compile, and categorize print, braille, audio, and video materials containing the information described in such sentence;

(B) identify and classify existing funding sources, conditions of and criteria for access to such sources, including any funding mechanisms or strategies developed by the State;

(C) identify existing support groups and systems designed to help individuals with disabilities make effective use of technology-related assistance; and

(D) maintain a record of the extent to which citizens of the State use or make inquiries of the system established under this paragraph, and of the nature of such inquiries.

Records.

(7) **INTERSTATE AGREEMENTS.**—The State may enter into cooperative agreements with other States to expand the capacity of the States involved to assist individuals of all ages with disabilities to learn about, acquire, use, maintain, adapt, and upgrade assistive technology devices and assistive technology services that such individuals need at home, school, work, or in other environments that are part of daily living.

(8) **OTHER ACTIVITIES.**—The State may utilize amounts made available under grants made under this title for any other

activities necessary for developing, implementing, or evaluating the statewide program of technology-related assistance.

29 USC 2212.

SEC. 102. DEVELOPMENT GRANTS.

(a) **GENERAL AUTHORITY.**—The Secretary shall award to States 3-year grants to assist States to develop and implement statewide programs of technology-related assistance for individuals with disabilities in accordance with the provisions of section 101.

(b) **NUMBER OF GRANTS TO BE AWARDED.**—From amounts appropriated under section 106, the Secretary shall award under this section, to the extent appropriate applications are submitted—

(1) in the first fiscal year for which amounts are appropriated, not more than 10 grants on a competitive basis;

(2) in the second fiscal year for which amounts are appropriated, not more than 20 grants on a competitive basis; and

(3) in the third fiscal year for which amounts are appropriated, any number of grants on a competitive basis.

(c) **AMOUNTS OF GRANTS.**—

(1) **GRANTS TO STATES.**—From amounts appropriated under section 106, the Secretary shall pay to each State that receives a grant under this section—

(A) for each of the first 2 years of the grant period, an amount that is not less than \$500,000 and not more than \$1,000,000; and

(B) for the third year of the grant period, an amount that is not less than \$500,000 and not more than \$1,500,000.

(2) **GRANTS TO TERRITORIES.**—From amounts appropriated under section 106 for any fiscal year, the Secretary shall pay to each territory that receives a grant under this section not more than \$150,000.

(3) **CALCULATION OF AMOUNTS.**—The Secretary shall calculate the amounts described in paragraphs (1) and (2) on the basis of—

(A) amounts available for making grants under this section;

(B) the population of the State or territory concerned; and

(C) the types of activities proposed by the State relating to the development of a statewide program of technology-related assistance.

(4) **PRIORITY FOR PREVIOUSLY PARTICIPATING STATES.**—Amounts appropriated for purposes of carrying out the provisions of this section in each of the 2 fiscal years succeeding the fiscal year in which amounts are first appropriated for such purposes shall first be made available to States that received grants under this section during the fiscal year preceding the fiscal year concerned.

(5) **DEFINITIONS.**—For purposes of this subsection:

(A) The term “State” does not include the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, or the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands.

(B) The term “territory” means the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands.

(d) **PRIORITIES FOR DISTRIBUTION.**—To the extent practicable, the Secretary shall award grants to States under this section in a manner that—

(1) is geographically equitable; and

(2) distributes the grants among States that have differing levels of development of statewide programs of technology-related assistance.

(e) **APPLICATIONS.**—Any State that desires to receive a grant under this section shall submit an application that contains the following information and assurances:

(1) **DESIGNATION OF RESPONSIBLE ENTITY.**—The designation by the Governor of the office, agency, entity, or individual responsible for—

(A) preparing the application;

(B) administering and supervising the use of amounts made available under the grant;

(C) planning and developing the statewide program of technology-related assistance;

(D) coordination between public and private agencies, including the entering into of interagency agreements;

(E) ensuring active, timely, and meaningful participation by individuals with disabilities, the families or representatives of such individuals, and other appropriate individuals with respect to performing functions and carrying out activities under the grant; and

(F) the delegation of any responsibilities described above, in whole or in part, to one or more appropriate offices, agencies, entities, or individuals.

(2) **AGENCY INVOLVEMENT.**—A description of the nature and extent of involvement of various State agencies in the preparation of the application and the continuing role of such agencies in the development of the statewide program of technology-related assistance.

(3) **PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT.**—A description of the nature and extent of involvement of individuals with disabilities, the families or representatives of such individuals, and other appropriate individuals who are not employed by a State agency in the development of the application and the continuing role of such individuals in the development of the statewide program of technology-related assistance.

(4) **PRELIMINARY NEEDS ASSESSMENT.**—A tentative assessment of the extent of the need of individuals with disabilities in the State, including individuals from underserved groups, for a statewide program of technology-related assistance and a description of previous efforts and efforts continuing on the date of the application to develop a statewide program of technology-related assistance.

(5) **STATE RESOURCES.**—A description of State resources and other resources (to the extent such information is available) that are available to commit to the development of a statewide program of technology-related assistance.

(6) **GOALS, OBJECTIVES, FUNCTIONS, ACTIVITIES, AND OUTCOMES.**—The State's goals, objectives, functions, and activities planned under the grant, and the expected outcomes at the end of the grant period with respect to a consumer-responsive statewide program of technology-related assistance, consistent with the purposes described in section 2(b)(1).

- (7) **INFORMATION AND EVALUATIONS.**—A description of—
 (A) procedures used for compiling information; and
 (B) procedures that will be used to conduct evaluations.
- (8) **STATE POLICIES WITH RESPECT TO CONTRACTS AND AGREEMENTS.**—A description of the policies governing contracts, grants, and other arrangements with public agencies, private nonprofit organizations, and other entities or individuals for the purpose of providing assistive technology devices and assistive technology services consistent with the provisions of this title.
- (9) **DISTRIBUTION PROCEDURE.**—An assurance that, to the extent practicable, technology-related assistance made available with amounts received under the grant will be equitably distributed among all geographical areas of the State.
- (10) **COMPLIANCE WITH ACT.**—An assurance that amounts received under the grant will be expended in accordance with the provisions of this title.
- (11) **SUPPLEMENT OTHER FUNDS.**—An assurance that amounts received under the grant—
 (A) will be used to supplement amounts available from other sources that are expended for technology-related assistance, including the provision of assistive technology devices and assistive technology services; and
 (B) will not be used to pay a financial obligation for technology-related assistance (including the provision of assistive technology devices or assistive technology services) that would have been paid with amounts available from other sources if amounts under the grant had not been available, unless—
 (i) such payment is made only to prevent a delay in the receipt of appropriate technology-related assistance (including the provision of assistive technology devices or assistive technology services) by an individual with disabilities; and
 (ii) the entity or agency responsible subsequently reimburses the appropriate account with respect to programs and activities under the grant in an amount equal to the amount of the payment.
- (12) **CONTROL OF FUNDS AND PROPERTY.**—An assurance that—
 (A) a public agency shall control and administer amounts received under the grant; and
 (B) a public agency or an individual with disabilities shall—
 (i) hold title to property purchased with such amounts; and
 (ii) administer such property.
- (13) **REPORTS.**—An assurance that the State will—
 (A) prepare reports to the Secretary in such form and containing such information as the Secretary may require to carry out the Secretary's functions under this title; and
 (B) keep such records and allow access to such records as the Secretary may require to ensure the correctness and verification of information provided to the Secretary under this paragraph.
- (14) **COMMINGLING OF FUNDS.**—An assurance that amounts received under the grant will not be commingled with State or other funds.

(15) **FISCAL CONTROL AND ACCOUNTING PROCEDURES.**—An assurance that the State will adopt such fiscal control and accounting procedures as may be necessary to ensure proper disbursement of and accounting for amounts received under the grant.

(16) **AVAILABILITY OF INFORMATION.**—An assurance that the State will—

(A) make available to individuals with disabilities and the families or representatives of individuals with disabilities information concerning technology-related assistance in a form that will allow such individuals to effectively use such information; and

(B) in preparing such information for dissemination, consider the media-related needs of individuals with disabilities who have sensory and cognitive limitations and consider the use of auditory materials, including audio cassettes, visual materials, including video cassettes and video discs, and braille materials.

(17) **OTHER INFORMATION.**—Such other information and assurances as the Secretary may reasonably require.

SEC. 103. EXTENSION GRANTS.

29 USC 2213.

(a) **GENERAL AUTHORITY.**—The Secretary may award a 2-year extension grant to any State that demonstrates to the Secretary that the State made significant progress in developing and implementing a statewide program of technology-related assistance under a grant provided under section 102, consistent with the requirements of such section and the purposes described in section 2(b)(1).

(b) **AMOUNTS OF GRANTS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—(A) From amounts appropriated under section 106 for any fiscal year, the Secretary shall pay to each State that receives a grant under this section an amount that is not less than \$500,000 and not more than \$1,500,000.

(B) From amounts appropriated under section 106 for any fiscal year, the Secretary shall pay to each territory that receives a grant under this section not more than \$150,000.

(C) For purposes of this paragraph:

(i) The term “State” does not include the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, or the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands.

(ii) The term “territory” means the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands.

(2) **CALCULATION OF AMOUNT.**—The Secretary shall calculate the amount described in paragraph (1) on the basis of—

(A) amounts available for making grants pursuant to this section;

(B) the population of the State;

(C) the types of assistance to be provided; and

(D) the amount of resources committed and available from other sources.

(3) **PRIORITY FOR PREVIOUSLY PARTICIPATING STATES.**—Amounts appropriated in any fiscal year for purposes of carrying out the provisions of this section shall first be made available to States

that received grants under this section during the fiscal year preceding the fiscal year concerned.

(c) **APPLICATION.**—A State that desires to receive an extension grant under this section shall submit an application that contains the following:

(1) **NEEDS.**—A description of needs relating to technology-related assistance of individuals with disabilities, including individuals from underserved groups, families or representatives of individuals with disabilities, and other appropriate individuals within the State.

(2) **ACTIVITIES UNDER DEVELOPMENT GRANT.**—A description of the specific activities carried out under the development grant received under section 102 and the relationship of such activities to the development of a statewide program of technology-related assistance.

(3) **PROGRESS.**—Documentation of the progress made under the development grant toward development of a statewide program of technology-related assistance.

(4) **PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT.**—A description of State actions designed to determine the degree of satisfaction of individuals with disabilities, families or representatives of individuals with disabilities, public and private service providers, employers, and other appropriate individuals with—

(A) the degree of their ongoing involvement in the development and implementation of the statewide program of technology-related assistance;

(B) the specific activities carried out by the State under the development grant; and

(C) progress made toward development and implementation of a consumer-responsive statewide program of technology-related assistance under the development grant.

(5) **COMMENTS.**—A summary of any comments received concerning the issues described in paragraph (4) and the State's response to such comments, solicited from individuals affected by the statewide program of technology-related assistance, including individuals with disabilities, families or representatives of individuals with disabilities, public and private service providers, employers, and other appropriate individuals.

(6) **OTHER INFORMATION AND ASSURANCES.**—The information and assurances described in section 102(e), except the preliminary needs assessment described in section 102(e)(4).

(7) **COMPATIBILITY AND ACCESSIBILITY OF ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT.**—An assurance that the State will comply with guidelines established under section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

29 USC 2214.

SEC. 104. PROGRESS REPORTS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Each State that receives a grant under this title shall submit to the Secretary annually a report that describes—

(1) completed activities carried out under the grant, especially with regard to section 102(e)(6), including, to the extent appropriate, a description of the impact of such activities on individuals with disabilities, public agencies, financial resources committed to technology-related assistance for individuals with disabilities, community-based organizations, and employers;

(2) unanticipated problems encountered in carrying out such activities;

(3) activities planned to rectify such problems in the following year.

(b) **SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS FOR REPORTS WITH RESPECT TO EXTENSION GRANTS.**—Each State that receives a development grant under section 102 may include, and each State that receives an extension grant under section 103 shall include in the report required by subsection (a) a description of—

(1) the types of assistance provided under the grant and the effects of such assistance, especially with respect to individuals with disabilities;

(2) the types of environments in which assistance was provided under the grant; and

(3) how the information required by this subsection was derived.

SEC. 105. ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

29 USC 2215.

(a) **REVIEW OF PARTICIPATING STATES.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall establish a system to assess the extent to which States that receive grants pursuant to this title are making significant progress in achieving the purposes of this title.

(2) **ONSITE VISITS.**—(A) The Secretary shall conduct an onsite visit during the final year of each State's participation in the development grant program. Two-thirds of the onsite monitoring team in each case shall be qualified peer reviewers from other participating States.

(B)(i) Members of any onsite monitoring team who are officers or full-time employees of the United States shall serve without compensation in addition to that received for their services as officers or employees of the United States, but they may be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, as authorized by section 5702 of title 5, United States Code, for individuals in the Government service traveling on official business.

Wages.

(ii) Members of any onsite monitoring team who are not officers or full-time employees of the United States shall receive compensation at a rate not to exceed the daily equivalent of the pay rate specified for GS-18 of the General Schedule under section 5332 of title 5, United States Code, for each day (including traveltime) during which such members are engaged in the actual performance of their duties as members of an onsite monitoring team. In addition, such members may be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, as authorized by section 5703 of title 5, United States Code, for individuals in the Government service employed intermittently.

(3) **MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS.**—At a minimum the visits shall allow the Secretary to determine the extent to which the State is making significant progress in developing a statewide program of technology-related assistance consistent with the purposes described in section 2(b)(1).

(4) **PROVISION OF INFORMATION.**—To assist the Secretary in carrying out the responsibilities of the Secretary under this section, the Secretary may require States to provide relevant information.

(b) **CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Any State that fails to comply with the requirements of this title shall be subject to a corrective action plan.

(2) **PENALTIES.**—A State that fails to comply with the requirements of this title may be subject to penalties such as—

(A) partial or complete fund termination;

(B) ineligibility to participate in the grant program in the following year; or

(C) reduction in funding for the following year.

(3) **APPEALS PROCEDURES.**—The Secretary shall establish appeals procedures for States that are found in noncompliance with the provisions of this title as the result of an onsite visit or failure to supply information required under subsection (a)(4).

(c) **EFFECT ON OTHER ASSISTANCE.**—Nothing in this title shall be construed to permit the State or any Federal agency to reduce medical or other assistance available or to alter eligibility under—

(1) title II, V, XVI, XVIII, XIX, or XX of the Social Security Act;

(2) the Education of the Handicapped Act;

(3) the Rehabilitation Act of 1973; or

(4) laws relating to veterans' benefits.

29 USC 2216.

SEC. 106. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this title \$9,000,000 for the fiscal year 1989 and such sums as may be necessary for each succeeding fiscal year ending before October 1, 1993.

(b) **RESERVATION.**—

(1) **PROVISION OF INFORMATION.**—The Secretary shall reserve 1 percent of funds appropriated in any fiscal year under subsection (a), or \$500,000, whichever is greater, for the purpose of providing States with information and technical assistance with respect to the development and implementation of consumer-responsive statewide programs of technology-related assistance.

(2) **ONSITE VISITS.**—The Secretary may reserve from amounts appropriated in any fiscal year under subsection (a) such sums as the Secretary considers necessary for the purposes of conducting onsite visits as required by section 105(a)(2).

29 USC 2217.

SEC. 107. EVALUATION.

(a) **EVALUATION.**—

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(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary, directly or by contract, shall conduct a national evaluation of the program of grants to States authorized by this title.

(2) **REPORT TO CONGRESS.**—The Secretary shall report to the Congress on the results of the evaluation conducted as required by paragraph (1) not later than October 1, 1992.

(b) **PURPOSE.**—The purpose of the evaluation required by subsection (a) shall be—

(1) to assess, through representative samples, the status and effects of State efforts to develop statewide programs of technology-related assistance for individuals with disabilities in a manner consistent with the provisions of this title, particularly in terms of the impact of such efforts on individuals with disabilities; and

(2) to recommend amendments to this title that the Secretary considers necessary to assist States to fully accomplish the purposes of this title.

(c) **INFORMATION SYSTEM.**—The Secretary shall work with the States to consider and develop an information system designed to report and compile, from information provided by the States, a qualitative and quantitative description of the impact of the program of grants to States authorized by this title on—

- (1) the lives of individuals with disabilities, particularly with regard to the purposes described in section 2(a)(3);
- (2) public agencies;
- (3) fiscal resources committed to technology-related assistance for individuals with disabilities;
- (4) community-based organizations; and
- (5) employers.

TITLE II—PROGRAMS OF NATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE

PART A—STUDY ON FINANCING OF ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY DEVICES AND ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY SERVICES FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES

SEC. 201. STUDY BY NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE HANDICAPPED.

29 USC 2231.

(a) **STUDY AND RECOMMENDATIONS.**—The National Council on the Handicapped (hereafter in this part referred to as the “Council”), in addition to the duties of the Council described in section 401 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, shall conduct a study and make recommendations to the Congress and the President concerning—

- (1) Federal laws, regulations, procedures, and practices that facilitate or impede the ability of the States to develop and implement consumer-responsive statewide programs of technology-related assistance for individuals with disabilities;
- (2) Federal and State laws, regulations, procedures, and practices that facilitate or impede the acquisition of, financing of, or payment for assistive technology devices and assistive technology services for individuals with disabilities;
- (3) policies, practices, and procedures of private entities (including insurers) that facilitate or impede the acquisition of, financing of, or payment for assistive technology devices and assistive technology services for individuals with disabilities; and
- (4) alternative strategies for acquiring or paying for assistive technology devices and assistive technology services.

(b) **ADVISORY COMMITTEE.**—The Council shall appoint an advisory committee in accordance with section 404(c) of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 to assist the Council in carrying out the duties of the Council under this part. Such advisory committee shall be appointed from individuals from both the public and private sectors who have broad experience and expertise directly relevant to the issues to be studied by the Council under this part, and shall also include individuals with disabilities, families of individuals with disabilities,

and representatives of organizations representing individuals with disabilities.

(c) **COOPERATION OF OTHER AGENCIES.—**

(1) **FEDERAL AGENCIES.—**The heads of all Federal agencies shall, to the extent not prohibited by law, cooperate with the Council in carrying out the duties of the Council under this part.

(2) **USE OF RESOURCES OF FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL AGENCIES.—**The Council may use in carrying out its duties under this part, with the consent of the agency involved, services, personnel, information, and facilities of other Federal, State, local, and private agencies, with or without reimbursement.

(d) **REPORTS.—**The Council shall submit to the President and to the appropriate committees of the Congress—

(1) such interim reports as the Council considers advisable; and

(2) not later than 18 months after the date of the enactment of an Act providing appropriations to carry out this part, a final report of its study and investigation together with such recommendations, including specific proposals for legislation, as the Council considers advisable.

PART B—NATIONAL INFORMATION AND PROGRAM REFERRAL NETWORK

29 USC 2241.

SEC. 211. ESTABLISHMENT OF NATIONAL INFORMATION AND PROGRAM REFERRAL NETWORK.

Before the end of the 30-month period beginning on the date of the enactment of an Act providing appropriations to carry out this part, the Secretary shall—

(1) determine whether it is appropriate, based on the findings and recommendations of the study conducted under section 212, to establish and operate a national information and program referral network to assist States to develop and implement consumer-responsive statewide programs of technology-related assistance; and

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(2) if the Secretary determines that establishment and operation of such a network is appropriate, enter into any contract or cooperative agreement necessary to establish and operate such a network, which may consist of information and program referral networks in existence or under development at the time of the study conducted under section 212.

29 USC 2242.

SEC. 212. FEASIBILITY STUDY REQUIRED.

(a) **IN GENERAL.—**The Secretary shall conduct a study—

(1) to determine the feasibility and desirability of creating the network described in section 211; and

(2) to determine the appropriate structure for the organization and operation of such a network, if it is determined to be feasible and desirable.

(b) **CONTRACT AUTHORITY.—**In carrying out the study required by subsection (a), the Secretary may enter into a contract or cooperative agreement necessary to conduct the study.

29 USC 2243.

SEC. 213. CONTENTS OF STUDY.

The study conducted under section 212 shall—

(1) analyze the needs of States that are interested in developing and implementing consumer-responsive statewide programs of technology-related assistance;

(2) describe the types of information and program referral networks (including electronic networks) in existence or under development at the time of the study, including—

(A) the types of information and program referral incorporated into or provided by such networks;

(B) the cost of maintaining such networks;

(C) the types of services provided by such networks;

(D) the types and numbers of individuals served by such networks;

(E) the location of such networks and accessibility to other networks; and

(F) the feasibility and desirability of linking such networks, including proposed plans and an estimate of the cost of such a linkage;

(3) analyze the impediments to the exchange of information and the development and operation of such networks;

(4) describe the information that should be incorporated into a national information and program referral network to ensure that the network serves the entire United States, in particular addressing the gaps in existing networks and methods of filling such gaps using networks in existence or under development at the time of the study;

(5) describe the information systems from other fields of technology development that may be incorporated into a national information and program referral network on technology-related assistance;

(6) analyze the issues involved in operating a national information and program referral network;

(7) analyze and describe management and cost projections for a national information and program referral network;

(8) evaluate operational alternatives including at least the advantages and disadvantages of—

(A) grant arrangements, contracting arrangements, or other funding mechanisms or arrangements, and the lengths of any such arrangements;

(B) various network configurations, including—

(i) regionally distributed;

(ii) focused on functional limitations;

(iii) age-focused;

(iv) expertise-centered; and

(v) other network configurations;

(C) costs associated with funding arrangements described in subparagraph (A) and network configurations described in subparagraph (B), and options for paying such costs, including the possible use of Federal funds, State funds, and other alternatives;

(D) mechanisms of payment for information and program referral services;

(E) mechanisms for ensuring that information systems remain current, have relevant and useful information, and provide information in a form that allows individuals with disabilities to make effective use of the information;

(F) forms of Federal oversight and independent evaluations that could be applied to a national information and program referral network;

(G) types of staffing expertise required for different options; and

(H) types of institutional oversight, such as governing boards and advisory panels; and

(9) a timetable for implementation of various network options.

29 USC 2244.

SEC. 214. TIMETABLE FOR STUDY.

(a) **AWARD OF CONTRACT.**—The Secretary shall, before the end of the six-month period beginning on the date of the enactment of an Act providing appropriations to carry out the study required by this part, enter into any contract or cooperative agreement necessary for conducting such study.

(b) **COMPLETION OF STUDY.**—Any contract or agreement entered into under subsection (a) shall require the study to be completed and a report concerning such study to be submitted to the Secretary and to the appropriate committees of the Congress before the end of the 18-month period beginning on the date of the contract or agreement.

(c) **IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS.**—The Secretary, after allowing for public comment on the report submitted under subsection (b), shall take appropriate action based on the report before the end of the 6-month period following the date on which the Secretary receives the report.

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PART C—TRAINING AND PUBLIC AWARENESS PROJECTS

29 USC 2251.

SEC. 221. TRAINING.

(a) **TECHNOLOGY TRAINING.**—

(1) **GENERAL AUTHORITY.**—The Secretary shall enter into contracts or cooperative agreements with appropriate nonprofit or for-profit entities for the purposes of—

(A) conducting training sessions; and

(B) developing, demonstrating, disseminating, and evaluating curricula, materials, and methods used to train individuals regarding the provision of technology-related assistance.

(2) **ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES.**—Activities conducted under contracts or cooperative agreements entered into under paragraph (1) may address the training needs of individuals with disabilities, the families or representatives of individuals with disabilities, individuals who work for public agencies and private entities that have contact with individuals with disabilities (including insurers), employers, and other appropriate individuals.

(b) **TECHNOLOGY CAREERS.**—

(1) **GENERAL AUTHORITY.**—The Secretary shall make grants to assist institutions of higher education to prepare personnel for careers relating to the provision of technology-related assistance to individuals with disabilities.

(2) **PRIORITY.**—In awarding grants under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall give priority to the preparation of personnel who will provide technical assistance, administer programs, or prepare personnel necessary to support the development and

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implementation of consumer-responsive statewide programs of technology-related assistance to individuals with disabilities.

(3) **USES OF FUNDS.**—Amounts made available for grants under paragraph (1) may be used by institutions of higher education to assist in covering the cost of courses of training or study for such personnel and for establishing and maintaining fellowships or traineeships with such stipends and allowances as may be determined by the Secretary.

SEC. 222. PUBLIC AWARENESS PROJECTS.

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29 USC 2252.

(a) **PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.**—The Secretary shall make grants to, or enter into contracts with, nonprofit and for-profit entities to carry out national projects that recognize and build awareness of the importance and efficacy of assistive technology devices and assistive technology services for individuals of all ages with disabilities functioning in various settings of daily life.

(b) **USES OF FUNDS.**—Amounts made available for grants and contracts under subsection (a) may be used to—

- (1) develop a national media campaign (including public service time slots on radio and television);
- (2) convene national or regional conferences;
- (3) prepare and disseminate information (including summaries, comparisons, analyses, and cost-benefit projections) concerning the efficacy of technology-related assistance;
- (4) encourage others to hold national or regional conferences;
- (5) develop and maintain recognition programs that are designed to promote public credit to entities that demonstrate an aggressive effort for a sustained time to provide or promote the use of technology-related assistance or the development of assistive technology devices; and
- (6) other activities considered appropriate by the Secretary.

SEC. 223. PRIORITIES.

Federal
Register,
publication.
29 USC 2253.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Beginning in fiscal year 1991, the Secretary shall—

- (1) establish priorities for activities carried out with assistance under this part;
- (2) publish such priorities in the Federal Register for the purpose of receiving public comment; and
- (3) publish such priorities in the Federal Register in final form not later than the date on which the Secretary publishes grant announcements for grants made under this part.

(b) **EXPLANATION OF DETERMINATION OF PRIORITIES.**—Concurrent with the publication required by subsection (a), the Secretary shall publish in the Federal Register an explanation of how the priorities were determined.

PART D—DEMONSTRATION AND INNOVATION PROJECTS

SEC. 231. PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.

29 USC 2261.

(a) **DEMONSTRATION AND INNOVATION PROJECTS.**—The Secretary shall make grants to, or enter into contracts or cooperative agreements with, nonprofit and for-profit entities to pay all or part of the cost of establishing or operating demonstration and innovation

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projects relating to technology-related assistance for individuals with disabilities.

(b) **ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES.**—Amounts made available for purposes of carrying out this part may be used for the following activities:

(1) **MODEL PROJECTS FOR DELIVERING ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY DEVICES AND SERVICES.**—The establishment or operation of model projects for delivering assistive technology devices and assistive technology services to individuals of all ages with disabilities functioning in various environments and carrying out various life activities (including model systems described in section 101(c)(1) of title I).

(2) **MODEL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS.**—The conduct of applied research and development projects, including projects designed to—

(A) increase the availability of reliable and durable assistive technology devices that address unique, low-market demand, or complex technology-related needs for individuals with disabilities;

(B) develop strategies and techniques that involve individuals with disabilities in assessing the performance characteristics of technology that is not designed specifically for individuals with disabilities and developing adaptations of such technology for individuals with disabilities;

(C) assist in the transfer of technology that is not specifically designed for individuals with disabilities to uses appropriate for such individuals; and

(D) facilitate effective and efficient technology transfer.

(3) **INCOME-CONTINGENT DIRECT LOAN DEMONSTRATION PROJECT.**—Demonstration projects in accordance with regulations issued by the Secretary (which may include a requirement that the Secretary shall provide an amount equal to not more than 90 percent of the amount required for any such project) to examine the feasibility of a direct loan program that would provide loans—

(A) to individuals with disabilities who require technology-related assistance in order to maintain a level of functioning or to achieve a greater level of functioning in any major life activity; or

(B) to the families or employers of individuals with disabilities, on behalf of such individuals, for the purposes described in subparagraph (A).

(c) **REPORT TO CONGRESS ON EXTENSION OF DIRECT LOAN PROGRAM.**—The Secretary shall, based on the projects assisted under subsection (b)(3), report to Congress concerning the feasibility of operating a direct loan program of general applicability beginning after September 30, 1993.

PART E—AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS

29 USC 2271.

SEC. 241. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

(a) **GENERAL AUTHORITY.**—There are authorized to be appropriated for purposes of carrying out this title (other than section 231(b)(1)) \$5,000,000 for the fiscal year 1989 and such sums as may be necessary for each of the fiscal years 1990, 1991, 1992, and 1993.

(b) **MODEL DELIVERY PROJECTS.**—There are authorized to be appropriated for purposes of carrying out section 231(b)(1) \$1,500,000 for the fiscal year 1989 and such sums as may be necessary for each of the fiscal years 1990, 1991, 1992, and 1993.

(c) **PRIORITIES.**—

(1) **MODEL DELIVERY PROJECTS.**—Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, if amounts appropriated for purposes of carrying out this Act for the fiscal year 1989 equal or exceed \$6,000,000, the Secretary shall first make available, from such amounts, not less than \$500,000 for demonstration projects under section 231(b)(1).

(2) **OTHER TITLE II ACTIVITIES.**—(A) Of amounts appropriated under subsection (a) for the fiscal year 1989, the Secretary shall first make available not more than \$250,000 for purposes of carrying out part A.

(B) Subject to subparagraph (A), of amounts appropriated under subsection (a) for any fiscal year, the Secretary shall first make available, in order of priority—

(i) not more than \$750,000 for purposes of carrying out section 212; and

(ii) such sums as may be necessary for purposes of carrying out section 211.

Approved August 19, 1988.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY—S. 2561 (H.R. 4904):

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CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, Vol. 134 (1988):

Aug. 2, considered and passed Senate.

Aug. 8, H.R. 4904 considered and passed House; proceedings vacated and S. 2561 passed in lieu.