

SENATE BILL 482

P1, O3

8lr2664

By: **Senators Astle, Conway, Currie, DeGrange, Eckardt, Edwards, Feldman, Hershey, Jennings, Kagan, Klausmeier, Lee, Manno, McFadden, Peters, Reilly, Rosapepe, Serafini, Smith, and Young**

Introduced and read first time: January 29, 2018

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Remote Access Information Program for Deaf-Blind Individuals –**
3 **Establishment**

4 FOR the purpose of establishing the Remote Access Information Program for Deaf-Blind
5 Individuals; establishing the purpose of the Program; requiring the Department of
6 Information Technology to consult with the Department of Disabilities to establish
7 and administer the Program and adopt certain regulations; requiring the
8 Department of Information Technology to enter into a certain agreement with the
9 Department of Disabilities that provides for a certain annual payment to the
10 Department of Disabilities; requiring the Department of Disabilities to identify and
11 contract with a certain nonprofit entity to provide certain remote assistive
12 technology; requiring the Program to be funded as provided in the State budget;
13 defining certain terms; and generally relating to the Remote Access Information
14 Program for Deaf-Blind Individuals.

15 BY adding to

16 Article – State Finance and Procurement

17 Section 3A-801 through 3A-803 to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 8. Remote
18 Access Information Program for Deaf-Blind Individuals”

19 Annotated Code of Maryland

20 (2015 Replacement Volume and 2017 Supplement)

21 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
22 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

23 **Article – State Finance and Procurement**

24 **SUBTITLE 8. REMOTE ACCESS INFORMATION PROGRAM FOR DEAF-BLIND**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



INDIVIDUALS.

3A-801.

(A) IN THIS SUBTITLE THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS INDICATED.

(B) "DEAF-BLIND" MEANS THE COMBINATION OF:

(1) (I) HAVING A CENTRAL VISUAL ACUITY OF 20/200 OR LESS IN THE BETTER EYE WITH CORRECTIVE LENSES;

(II) A FIELD DEFECT SUCH THAT THE PERIPHERAL DIAMETER OF VISUAL FIELD SUBTENDS AN ANGULAR DISTANCE NO GREATER THAN 20 DEGREES; OR

(III) PROGRESSIVE VISUAL LOSS HAVING A PROGNOSIS LEADING TO A CONDITION DESCRIBED IN ITEM (I) OR (II) OF THIS ITEM; AND

(2) (I) A CHRONIC HEARING IMPAIRMENT SO SEVERE THAT MOST SPEECH CANNOT BE UNDERSTOOD WITH OPTIMUM AMPLIFICATION; OR

(II) PROGRESSIVE HEARING LOSS THAT HAS A PROGNOSIS LEADING TO THE CONDITION DESCRIBED IN ITEM (I) OF THIS ITEM.

(C) "PROGRAM" MEANS THE REMOTE ACCESS INFORMATION PROGRAM FOR DEAF-BLIND INDIVIDUALS ESTABLISHED UNDER § 3A-802 OF THIS SUBTITLE.

(D) "REMOTE ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY" MEANS TECHNOLOGY THAT PROVIDES VISUAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION AND, AT A MINIMUM:

(1) USES THE INTERNET TO PROVIDE A CONNECTION BETWEEN A DEAF-BLIND INDIVIDUAL AND A HUMAN ASSISTANT;

(2) USES A MOBILE DATA CONNECTION THAT DOES NOT REQUIRE THE USE OF STATIONARY OR USER-SUPPLIED WIRELESS LOCAL AREA NETWORKING AND, WHERE POSSIBLE, RECEIVES PRIORITY TRAFFIC HANDLING FROM THE SERVICE PROVIDER TO ENSURE MINIMAL DELAY IN INFORMATION TRANSMITTAL;

(3) PROVIDES A MECHANISM ALLOWING FOR HANDS-FREE TRANSMISSION OF VIDEO TO THE REMOTE HUMAN ASSISTANT PROVIDING A SUFFICIENT VISUAL FIELD TO PERMIT THE DELIVERY OF INFORMATION IMMEDIATELY IN FRONT OF AND SLIGHTLY TO EITHER SIDE OF THE DEAF-BLIND

1 USER, WHICH IS OPTIMALLY A VISUAL FIELD ENCOMPASSING 60 DEGREES IN FRONT
2 OF THE USER; AND

3 (4) ALLOWS FOR THE USE OF THE CAMERA ON A MOBILE DEVICE IN
4 SITUATIONS IN WHICH THE HANDS-FREE OPTION IS NOT APPROPRIATE.

5 3A-802.

6 (A) THERE IS A REMOTE ACCESS INFORMATION PROGRAM FOR
7 DEAF-BLIND INDIVIDUALS.

8 (B) THE PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM IS TO USE REMOTE ASSISTIVE
9 TECHNOLOGY TO CONNECT DEAF-BLIND INDIVIDUALS WHOSE IMPAIRMENTS CAUSE
10 EXTREME DIFFICULTY IN ATTAINING INDEPENDENCE IN DAILY LIFE ACTIVITIES OR
11 OBTAINING A VOCATION WITH A HUMAN ASSISTANT TO PROVIDE REAL-TIME
12 INFORMATION THROUGH AN ACCESSIBLE PLATFORM THAT WOULD NOT OTHERWISE
13 BE AVAILABLE.

14 3A-803.

15 (A) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL:

16 (1) CONSULT WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF DISABILITIES TO:

17 (I) ESTABLISH AND ADMINISTER THE PROGRAM; AND

18 (II) ADOPT REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE PROGRAM,
19 INCLUDING REGULATIONS ESTABLISHING ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR
20 DEAF-BLIND INDIVIDUALS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PROGRAM; AND

21 (2) ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF
22 DISABILITIES PROVIDING FOR AN ANNUAL PAYMENT TO BE MADE TO THE
23 DEPARTMENT OF DISABILITIES IN AN AMOUNT EQUAL TO THE COST INCURRED FOR
24 THE PROVISION OF REMOTE ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY UNDER THE PROGRAM.

25 (B) IN ADMINISTERING THE PROGRAM, THE DEPARTMENT OF
26 DISABILITIES SHALL CONTRACT WITH A NONPROFIT ENTITY THAT HAS EXPERIENCE
27 WORKING WITH DEAF-BLIND INDIVIDUALS AND REMOTE ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY
28 TO PROVIDE THE REMOTE ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY REQUIRED UNDER THE
29 PROGRAM.

30 (C) THE PROGRAM SHALL BE FUNDED AS PROVIDED IN THE STATE BUDGET.

1 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
2 October 1, 2018.