

SENATE BILL 99

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6lr0100

(PRE-FILED)

By: **Chair, Finance Committee (By Request – Departmental – Disabilities)**

Requested: September 24, 2015

Introduced and read first time: January 13, 2016

Assigned to: Finance

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Department of Disabilities – Assistive Technology Loan Program – Board of**
3 **Directors**

4 FOR the purpose of repealing the requirement that a certain member of the Assistive
5 Technology Loan Program Board of Directors be a member of the Maryland
6 Commission on Disabilities; increasing the maximum number of terms that a Board
7 member may serve; providing for the staggering of terms of Board members; and
8 generally relating to the Board of Directors of the Assistive Technology Loan
9 Program.

10 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
11 Article – Human Services
12 Section 7–601
13 Annotated Code of Maryland
14 (2007 Replacement Volume and 2015 Supplement)

15 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
16 Article – Human Services
17 Section 7–605
18 Annotated Code of Maryland
19 (2007 Replacement Volume and 2015 Supplement)

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

22 **Article – Human Services**

23 7–601.

24 (a) In this subtitle the following words have the meanings indicated.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (b) (1) “Assistive technology” means any item, equipment, or device that is
2 designed to enable an individual with a disability to become more independent or a more
3 productive member of the community with an improved quality of life.

4 (2) “Assistive technology” includes wheelchairs, motorized scooters, Braille
5 equipment, voice simulation systems, scanners, assistive listening devices,
6 telecommunications devices for the deaf, augmentative communication systems,
7 environmental control systems, computers and adaptive peripherals, building
8 modifications for accessibility, motor vehicles, and vehicle modifications.

9 (c) “Board” means the Board of Directors of the Program.

10 (d) “Department” means the Department of Disabilities.

11 (e) “Fund” means the Assistive Technology Loan Fund.

12 (f) “Program” means the Assistive Technology Loan Program.

13 (g) “Secretary” means the Secretary of Disabilities.

14 7-605.

15 (a) The Board consists of:

16 (1) the Secretary of Information Technology or the Secretary’s designee;

17 (2) a representative from the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene,
18 Developmental Disabilities Administration, appointed by the Secretary of Health and
19 Mental Hygiene;

20 (3) a representative of the State Department of Education Division of
21 Rehabilitation Services, appointed by the State Superintendent of Schools; and

22 (4) eight members of the public appointed by the Governor with the advice
23 and consent of the Senate.

24 (b) Of the eight members of the public appointed by the Governor:

25 (1) four shall have significant experience in finance, accounting,
26 investment management, or consumer lending; and

27 (2) four shall have disabilities or assist individuals with disabilities[, at
28 least one of whom shall be a member of the Maryland Commission on Disabilities].

29 (c) (1) The term of a member appointed by the Governor is 4 years.

1 (2) At the end of a term, a member continues to serve until a successor is
2 appointed and qualifies.

3 (3) A member who is appointed after a term has begun serves only for the
4 rest of the term and until a successor is appointed and qualifies.

5 (4) A member appointed by the Governor may not serve more than [two]
6 **THREE** terms.

7 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the terms of the members of
8 the Assistive Technology Loan Program Board of Directors serving on October 1, 2016, shall
9 expire as follows:

10 (1) one member with significant experience in finance, accounting,
11 investment management, or consumer lending and one member with disabilities or who
12 assists individuals with disabilities, in 2016;

13 (2) one member with significant experience in finance, accounting,
14 investment management, or consumer lending and one member with disabilities or who
15 assists individuals with disabilities, in 2017;

16 (3) one member with significant experience in finance, accounting,
17 investment management, or consumer lending and one member with disabilities or who
18 assists individuals with disabilities, in 2018; and

19 (4) one member with significant experience in finance, accounting,
20 investment management, or consumer lending and one member with disabilities or who
21 assists individuals with disabilities, in 2019.

22 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That a member appointed to the
23 Assistive Technology Loan Program Board of Directors on October 1, 2016, with a term
24 expiring in 2016 or in 2017 is not considered to have served a full term for purposes of §
25 7-605(c)(4) of the Human Services Article as enacted by Section 1 of this Act.

26 SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
27 October 1, 2016.