

Chapter 38

(Senate Bill 99)

AN ACT concerning

Department of Disabilities – Assistive Technology Loan Program – Board of Directors

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

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

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

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

Article – Human Services

7–601.

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

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

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

- (c) “Board” means the Board of Directors of the Program.
- (d) “Department” means the Department of Disabilities.
- (e) “Fund” means the Assistive Technology Loan Fund.
- (f) “Program” means the Assistive Technology Loan Program.
- (g) “Secretary” means the Secretary of Disabilities.

7-605.

- (a) The Board consists of:

- (1) the Secretary of Information Technology or the Secretary’s designee;
- (2) a representative from the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Developmental Disabilities Administration, appointed by the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene;
- (3) a representative of the State Department of Education Division of Rehabilitation Services, appointed by the State Superintendent of Schools; and
- (4) eight members of the public appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate.

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

- (1) four shall have significant experience in finance, accounting, investment management, or consumer lending; and
- (2) four shall have disabilities or assist individuals with disabilities[, at least one of whom shall be a member of the Maryland Commission on Disabilities].

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

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

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

(4) A member appointed by the Governor may not serve more than ~~two~~ **THREE** terms.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Approved by the Governor, April 12, 2016.