

Chapter 420

(House Bill 214)

AN ACT concerning

Human Services – Maryland Assistive Technology Program – Establishment

FOR the purpose of establishing the Maryland Assistive Technology Program in the Department of Disabilities to provide assistive technology devices and services to individuals with disabilities; establishing the Assistive Technology Services Fund as a special, nonlapsing fund; requiring interest earnings of the Fund to be credited to the Fund; and generally relating to the Maryland Assistive Technology Program.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Article – Human Services
Section 7–114(b)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2019 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

BY adding to
Article – Human Services
Section 7–1201 through 7–1205 to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 12. Maryland Assistive Technology Program”
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2019 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
Article – State Finance and Procurement
Section 6–226(a)(2)(i)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2021 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Article – State Finance and Procurement
Section 6–226(a)(2)(ii)204. and 205.
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2021 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

BY adding to
Article – State Finance and Procurement
Section 6–226(a)(2)(ii)206.
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2021 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

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

Article – Human Services

7–114.

(b) The Department shall oversee and administer the following programs and units:

(1) constituent services and ombudsmen programs;

(2) the Assistive Technology Guaranteed Loan Program under Subtitle 6 of this title;

(3) the Office of Personal Assistance Services, including the Attendant Care Program under Subtitle 4 of this title;

(4) Telecommunications Access of Maryland under Subtitle 8 of this title;
[and]

(5) Telecommunications Devices and Distribution of Accessible Information for Disabled Individuals under Subtitle 9 of this title; AND

(6) THE MARYLAND ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM UNDER SUBTITLE 12 OF THIS TITLE.

SUBTITLE 12. MARYLAND ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM.

7–1201.

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

(B) “ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY DEVICE” MEANS ANY ITEM, PIECE OF EQUIPMENT, OR PRODUCT SYSTEM, WHETHER ACQUIRED COMMERCIALY, MODIFIED, OR CUSTOMIZED, THAT IS USED TO INCREASE, MAINTAIN, OR IMPROVE FUNCTIONAL CAPABILITIES OF INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES.

(C) “ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY SERVICE” MEANS ANY SERVICE THAT ASSISTS AN INDIVIDUAL WITH A DISABILITY IN THE SELECTION, ACQUISITION, OR USE OF AN ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY DEVICE.

(D) “FUND” MEANS THE ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY SERVICES FUND.

(E) “PROGRAM” MEANS THE MARYLAND ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM.

7-1202.

(A) THERE IS A MARYLAND ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM IN THE DEPARTMENT.

(B) THE PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM IS TO:

(1) INCREASE ACCESS TO ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY DEVICES AND ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY SERVICES FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES;

(2) SUPPORT THE STATE’S 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;

(3) ENSURE STATEWIDE ACCESS TO ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY LENDING LIBRARIES THAT ALLOW INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES AND THOSE SUPPORTING INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES TO LEARN ABOUT, TRY, AND BORROW ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY DEVICES THROUGH SHORT-TERM LOANS; AND

(4) IMPLEMENT ACTIVITIES REQUIRED BY FEDERAL GRANTS, INCLUDING FUNDING AUTHORIZED UNDER THE FEDERAL 21ST CENTURY ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY ACT.

(C) THE PROGRAM SHALL PROVIDE ACCESS TO OR CONDUCT ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY SERVICES THAT INCLUDE ANY ACTIVITY DESCRIBED IN THE FEDERAL 21ST CENTURY ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY ACT.

7-1203.

(A) THERE IS AN ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY SERVICES FUND IN THE DEPARTMENT.

(B) THE PURPOSE OF THE FUND IS TO RECEIVE REVENUE FROM ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE PROGRAM, INCLUDING:

(1) ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENTS;

(2) ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY TRAINING;

- (3) DIGITAL ACCESSIBILITY TRAINING;**
- (4) DIGITAL ACCESSIBILITY WEBSITE EVALUATIONS; AND**
- (5) DIGITAL ACCESSIBILITY REMEDIATION SERVICES.**

(C) THE SECRETARY, THROUGH THE PROGRAM, SHALL ADMINISTER THE FUND.

(D) (1) THE FUND IS A SPECIAL, NONLAPSING FUND THAT IS NOT SUBJECT TO § 7-302 OF THE STATE FINANCE AND PROCUREMENT ARTICLE.

(2) THE STATE TREASURER SHALL HOLD THE FUND SEPARATELY, AND THE COMPTROLLER SHALL ACCOUNT FOR THE FUND.

(E) THE FUND CONSISTS OF:

(1) REVENUE DISTRIBUTED TO THE FUND UNDER SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION;

(2) MONEY APPROPRIATED IN THE STATE BUDGET TO THE FUND;

(3) INTEREST EARNINGS; AND

(4) ANY OTHER MONEY FROM ANY OTHER SOURCE ACCEPTED FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE FUND.

(F) THE FUND MAY BE USED ONLY TO SUPPORT THE OPERATIONS OF THE PROGRAM, INCLUDING THE PURCHASE OF ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY DEVICES.

(G) (1) THE STATE TREASURER SHALL INVEST THE MONEY OF THE FUND IN THE SAME MANNER AS OTHER STATE MONEY MAY BE INVESTED.

(2) ANY INTEREST EARNINGS OF THE FUND SHALL BE CREDITED TO THE FUND.

(H) EXPENDITURES FROM THE FUND MAY BE MADE ONLY IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE STATE BUDGET.

(I) MONEY EXPENDED FROM THE FUND FOR THE PROGRAM IS SUPPLEMENTAL TO AND IS NOT INTENDED TO TAKE THE PLACE OF FUNDING THAT OTHERWISE WOULD BE APPROPRIATED FOR THE PROGRAM.

7-1204.

THIS SUBTITLE MAY NOT BE CONSTRUED TO ESTABLISH AN ENTITLEMENT PROGRAM.

7-1205.

THE SECRETARY MAY ADOPT REGULATIONS TO IMPLEMENT THIS SUBTITLE.

Article – State Finance and Procurement

6-226.

(a) (2) (i) 1. This subparagraph does not apply in fiscal years 2024 through 2028.

2. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, and unless inconsistent with a federal law, grant agreement, or other federal requirement or with the terms of a gift or settlement agreement, net interest on all State money allocated by the State Treasurer under this section to special funds or accounts, and otherwise entitled to receive interest earnings, as accounted for by the Comptroller, shall accrue to the General Fund of the State.

(ii) The provisions of subparagraph (i) of this paragraph do not apply to the following funds:

204. the Victims of Domestic Violence Program Grant Fund;
[and]

205. the Proposed Programs Collaborative Grant Fund; **AND**

206. THE ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY SERVICES FUND.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2025.

Approved by the Governor, May 6, 2025.