

### **§ 794c. Interagency Disability Coordinating Council**

#### **(a) Establishment**

There is hereby established an Interagency Disability Coordinating Council (hereafter in this section referred to as the “Council”) composed of the Secretary of Education, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, the Secretary of Labor, the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, the Secretary of Transportation, the Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Indian Affairs, the Attorney General, the Director of the Office of Personnel Management, the Chairperson of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, the Chairperson of the Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board, and such other officials as may be designated by the President.

#### **(b) Duties**

The Council shall—

(1) have the responsibility for developing and implementing agreements, policies, and practices designed to maximize effort, promote efficiency, and eliminate conflict, competition, duplication, and inconsistencies among the operations, functions, and jurisdictions of the various departments, agencies, and branches of the Federal Government responsible for the implementation and enforcement of the provisions of this subchapter, and the regulations prescribed thereunder;

(2) be responsible for developing and implementing agreements, policies, and practices designed to coordinate operations, functions, and jurisdictions of the various departments and agencies of the Federal Government responsible for promoting the full integration into society, independence, and productivity of individuals with disabilities; and

(3) carry out such studies and other activities, subject to the availability of resources, with advice from the National Council on Disability, in order to identify methods for overcoming barriers to integration into society, independence, and productivity of individuals with disabilities.

#### **(c) Report**

On or before July 1 of each year, the Interagency Disability Coordinating Council shall prepare and submit to the President and to the Congress a report of the activities of the Council designed to promote and meet the employment needs of individuals with disabilities, together with such recommendations for legislative and administrative changes as the Council concludes are desirable to further promote this section, along with any comments submitted by the National Council on Disability as to the effectiveness of such activities and recommendations in meeting the needs of individuals with disabilities. Nothing in this section shall impair any responsibilities assigned by any Executive order to any Federal department, agency, or instrumentality to act as a lead Federal agency with respect to any provisions of this subchapter.

(Pub. L. 93-112, title V, §507, as added Pub. L. 95-602, title I, §120(a), Nov. 6, 1978, 92 Stat. 2983; amended Pub. L. 96-88, title V, §508(m)(2), Oct.

17, 1979, 93 Stat. 694; Pub. L. 98-221, title I, §104(b)(4), Feb. 22, 1984, 98 Stat. 18; Pub. L. 99-506, title VI, §602, title X, §1001(f)(4), Oct. 21, 1986, 100 Stat. 1830, 1843; Pub. L. 102-569, title V, §508(a), Oct. 29, 1992, 106 Stat. 4429.)

#### **AMENDMENTS**

1992—Pub. L. 102-569 amended section generally, changing Council name from Interagency Coordinating Council to Interagency Disability Coordinating Council, including as members Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, Secretary of Transportation, and such other officials as designated by the President, requiring Council to be responsible for developing and implementing policies and practices to eliminate inconsistencies among Federal departments and agencies responsible for enforcement of provisions of this subchapter and to carry out such studies and other activities, with advice from the National Council on Disability, to identify methods for overcoming barriers to integration into society, independence, and productivity of individuals with disabilities, and directing in annual report inclusion of any comments submitted by National Council on Disability as to effectiveness of activities and recommendations in meeting needs of individuals with disabilities.

1986—Pub. L. 99-506, §602, inserted reference to Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Indian Affairs.

Pub. L. 99-506, §1001(f)(4), which directed the substitution of “Chairperson” for “Chairman” was executed by substituting “Chairperson of the Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board” for “Chairman of the Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board” to reflect the probable intent of Congress.

1984—Pub. L. 98-221 substituted “Chairman of the Office of Personnel Management” for “Chairman of the United States Civil Service Commission” and purported to substitute “Secretary of Education, the Secretary of Health and Human Services,” for “Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare” which amendment could not be executed in view of the previous amendment by Pub. L. 96-88. See 1979 Amendment note below.

1979—Pub. L. 96-88 substituted requirement that the Secretaries of Education and Health and Human Services be members of the Council for requirement that the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare be a member.

#### **EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1979 AMENDMENT**

Amendment by Pub. L. 96-88 effective May 4, 1980, with specified exceptions, see section 601 of Pub. L. 96-88, set out as an Effective Date note under section 3401 of Title 20, Education.

#### **TERMINATION OF REPORTING REQUIREMENTS**

For termination, effective May 15, 2000, of provisions in subsec. (c) of this section relating to requirement that the Council submit an annual report of activities to Congress, see section 3003 of Pub. L. 104-66, as amended, set out as a note under section 1113 of Title 31, Money and Finance, and page 175 of House Document No. 103-7.

### **§ 794d. Electronic and information technology**

#### **(a) Requirements for Federal departments and agencies**

##### **(1) Accessibility**

##### **(A) Development, procurement, maintenance, or use of electronic and information technology**

When developing, procuring, maintaining, or using electronic and information technology, each Federal department or agency, including the United States Postal Service,

shall ensure, unless an undue burden would be imposed on the department or agency, that the electronic and information technology allows, regardless of the type of medium of the technology—

(i) individuals with disabilities who are Federal employees to have access to and use of information and data that is comparable to the access to and use of the information and data by Federal employees who are not individuals with disabilities; and

(ii) individuals with disabilities who are members of the public seeking information or services from a Federal department or agency to have access to and use of information and data that is comparable to the access to and use of the information and data by such members of the public who are not individuals with disabilities.

**(B) Alternative means efforts**

When development, procurement, maintenance, or use of electronic and information technology that meets the standards published by the Access Board under paragraph (2) would impose an undue burden, the Federal department or agency shall provide individuals with disabilities covered by paragraph (1) with the information and data involved by an alternative means of access that allows the individual to use the information and data.

**(2) Electronic and information technology standards**

**(A) In general**

Not later than 18 months after August 7, 1998, the Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board (referred to in this section as the “Access Board”), after consultation with the Secretary of Education, the Administrator of General Services, the Secretary of Commerce, the Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission, the Secretary of Defense, and the head of any other Federal department or agency that the Access Board determines to be appropriate, including consultation on relevant research findings, and after consultation with the electronic and information technology industry and appropriate public or nonprofit agencies or organizations, including organizations representing individuals with disabilities, shall issue and publish standards setting forth—

(i) for purposes of this section, a definition of electronic and information technology that is consistent with the definition of information technology specified in section 11101(6) of title 40; and

(ii) the technical and functional performance criteria necessary to implement the requirements set forth in paragraph (1).

**(B) Review and amendment**

The Access Board shall periodically review and, as appropriate, amend the standards required under subparagraph (A) to reflect technological advances or changes in electronic and information technology.

**(3) Incorporation of standards**

Not later than 6 months after the Access Board publishes the standards required under paragraph (2), the Federal Acquisition Regulatory Council shall revise the Federal Acquisition Regulation and each Federal department or agency shall revise the Federal procurement policies and directives under the control of the department or agency to incorporate those standards. Not later than 6 months after the Access Board revises any standards required under paragraph (2), the Council shall revise the Federal Acquisition Regulation and each appropriate Federal department or agency shall revise the procurement policies and directives, as necessary, to incorporate the revisions.

**(4) Acquisition planning**

In the event that a Federal department or agency determines that compliance with the standards issued by the Access Board under paragraph (2) relating to procurement imposes an undue burden, the documentation by the department or agency supporting the procurement shall explain why compliance creates an undue burden.

**(5) Exemption for national security systems**

This section shall not apply to national security systems, as that term is defined in section 11103(a) of title 40.

**(6) Construction**

**(A) Equipment**

In a case in which the Federal Government provides access to the public to information or data through electronic and information technology, nothing in this section shall be construed to require a Federal department or agency—

(i) to make equipment owned by the Federal Government available for access and use by individuals with disabilities covered by paragraph (1) at a location other than that where the electronic and information technology is provided to the public; or

(ii) to purchase equipment for access and use by individuals with disabilities covered by paragraph (1) at a location other than that where the electronic and information technology is provided to the public.

**(B) Software and peripheral devices**

Except as required to comply with standards issued by the Access Board under paragraph (2), nothing in paragraph (1) requires the installation of specific accessibility-related software or the attachment of a specific accessibility-related peripheral device at a workstation of a Federal employee who is not an individual with a disability.

**(b) Technical assistance**

The Administrator of General Services and the Access Board shall provide technical assistance to individuals and Federal departments and agencies concerning the requirements of this section.

**(c) Agency evaluations**

Not later than 6 months after August 7, 1998, the head of each Federal department or agency

shall evaluate the extent to which the electronic and information technology of the department or agency is accessible to and usable by individuals with disabilities described in subsection (a)(1) of this section, compared to the access to and use of the technology by individuals described in such subsection who are not individuals with disabilities, and submit a report containing the evaluation to the Attorney General.

**(d) Reports**

**(1) Interim report**

Not later than 18 months after August 7, 1998, the Attorney General shall prepare and submit to the President a report containing information on and recommendations regarding the extent to which the electronic and information technology of the Federal Government is accessible to and usable by individuals with disabilities described in subsection (a)(1) of this section.

**(2) Biennial reports**

Not later than 3 years after August 7, 1998, and every 2 years thereafter, the Attorney General shall prepare and submit to the President and Congress a report containing information on and recommendations regarding the state of Federal department and agency compliance with the requirements of this section, including actions regarding individual complaints under subsection (f) of this section.

**(e) Cooperation**

Each head of a Federal department or agency (including the Access Board, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, and the General Services Administration) shall provide to the Attorney General such information as the Attorney General determines is necessary to conduct the evaluations under subsection (c) of this section and prepare the reports under subsection (d) of this section.

**(f) Enforcement**

**(1) General**

**(A) Complaints**

Effective 6 months after the date of publication by the Access Board of final standards described in subsection (a)(2) of this section, any individual with a disability may file a complaint alleging that a Federal department or agency fails to comply with subsection (a)(1) of this section in providing electronic and information technology.

**(B) Application**

This subsection shall apply only to electronic and information technology that is procured by a Federal department or agency not less than 6 months after the date of publication by the Access Board of final standards described in subsection (a)(2) of this section.

**(2) Administrative complaints**

Complaints filed under paragraph (1) shall be filed with the Federal department or agency alleged to be in noncompliance. The Federal department or agency receiving the complaint shall apply the complaint procedures established to implement section 794 of this title for

resolving allegations of discrimination in a federally conducted program or activity.

**(3) Civil actions**

The remedies, procedures, and rights set forth in sections 794a(a)(2) and 794a(b) of this title shall be the remedies, procedures, and rights available to any individual with a disability filing a complaint under paragraph (1).

**(g) Application to other Federal laws**

This section shall not be construed to limit any right, remedy, or procedure otherwise available under any provision of Federal law (including sections 791 through 794a of this title) that provides greater or equal protection for the rights of individuals with disabilities than this section.

(Pub. L. 93-112, title V, § 508, as added Pub. L. 99-506, title VI, § 603(a), Oct. 21, 1986, 100 Stat. 1830; amended Pub. L. 100-630, title II, § 206(f), Nov. 7, 1988, 102 Stat. 3312; Pub. L. 102-569, title V, § 509(a), Oct. 29, 1992, 106 Stat. 4430; Pub. L. 105-220, title IV, § 408(b), Aug. 7, 1998, 112 Stat. 1203; Pub. L. 106-246, div. B, title II, § 2405, July 13, 2000, 114 Stat. 555.)

**CODIFICATION**

“Section 11101(6) of title 40” substituted in subsec. (a)(2)(A)(i) for “section 5002(3) of the Clinger-Cohen Act of 1996 (40 U.S.C. 1401(3))” and “section 11103(a) of title 40” substituted in subsec. (a)(5) for “section 5142 of the Clinger-Cohen Act of 1996 (40 U.S.C. 1452)” on authority of Pub. L. 107-217, § 5(c), Aug. 21, 2002, 116 Stat. 1303, the first section of which enacted Title 40, Public Buildings, Property, and Works.

**AMENDMENTS**

2000—Subsec. (f)(1)(A). Pub. L. 106-246, § 2405(1), substituted “Effective 6 months after the date of publication by the Access Board of final standards described in subsection (a)(2) of this section,” for “Effective 2 years after August 7, 1998.”.

Subsec. (f)(1)(B). Pub. L. 106-246, § 2405(2), substituted “6 months after the date of publication by the Access Board of final standards described in subsection (a)(2) of this section.” for “2 years after August 7, 1998.”

1998—Pub. L. 105-220 amended section catchline and text generally. Prior to amendment, text consisted of subsecs. (a) and (b) relating to electronic and information technology accessibility guidelines.

1992—Pub. L. 102-569 amended section generally, substituting present provisions for provisions relating to electronic equipment accessibility guidelines, in consultation with electronic industry, designed to insure individuals with handicaps use of electronic office equipment with or without special peripherals, requiring the Administrator of General Services to adopt guidelines for electronic equipment accessibility established under this section for Federal procurement of electronic equipment, and defining term “special peripherals”.

1988—Subsec. (a)(1). Pub. L. 100-630, § 206(f)(1), inserted “the Director of” before “the National Institute”, struck out “the” before “General Services”, and substituted “individuals with handicaps” for “handicapped individuals”.

Subsec. (a)(3). Pub. L. 100-630, § 206(f)(2), inserted “by the Director of the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research and the Administrator of General Services in consultation with the electronics industry and the Interagency Committee for Computer Support of Handicapped Employees” after “revised”.

Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 100-630, § 206(f)(3), substituted “an individual with handicaps” for “a handicapped individual”.

## **§ 794e. Protection and advocacy of individual rights**

### **(a) Purpose and construction**

#### **(1) Purpose**

The purpose of this section is to support a system in each State to protect the legal and human rights of individuals with disabilities who—

(A) need services that are beyond the scope of services authorized to be provided by the client assistance program under section 732 of this title; and

(B)(i) are ineligible for protection and advocacy programs under subtitle C of the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000 [42 U.S.C. 15041 et seq.] because the individuals do not have a developmental disability, as defined in section 102 of such Act [42 U.S.C. 15002]; and

(ii) are ineligible for services under the Protection and Advocacy for Mentally Ill Individuals Act of 1986<sup>1</sup> (42 U.S.C. 10801 et seq.) because the individuals are not individuals with mental illness, as defined in section 102 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 10802).

#### **(2) Construction**

This section shall not be construed to require the provision of protection and advocacy services that can be provided under the Assistive Technology Act of 1998 [29 U.S.C. 3001 et seq.].

### **(b) Appropriations less than \$5,500,000**

For any fiscal year in which the amount appropriated to carry out this section is less than \$5,500,000, the Commissioner may make grants from such amount to eligible systems within States to plan for, develop outreach strategies for, and carry out protection and advocacy programs authorized under this section for individuals with disabilities who meet the requirements of subparagraphs (A) and (B) of subsection (a)(1) of this section.

### **(c) Appropriations of \$5,500,000 or more**

#### **(1) Reservations**

##### **(A) Technical assistance**

For any fiscal year in which the amount appropriated to carry out this section equals or exceeds \$5,500,000, the Commissioner shall set aside not less than 1.8 percent and not more than 2.2 percent of the amount to provide training and technical assistance to the systems established under this section.

##### **(B) Grant for the eligible system serving the American Indian consortium**

For any fiscal year in which the amount appropriated to carry out this section equals or exceeds \$10,500,000, the Commissioner shall reserve a portion, and use the portion to make a grant for the eligible system serving the American Indian consortium. The Commission shall make the grant in an amount of not less than \$50,000 for the fiscal year.

#### **(2) Allotments**

For any such fiscal year, after the reservations required by paragraph (1) have been

made, the Commissioner shall make allotments from the remainder of such amount in accordance with paragraph (3) to eligible systems within States to enable such systems to carry out protection and advocacy programs authorized under this section for individuals referred to in subsection (b) of this section.

### **(3) Systems within States**

#### **(A) Population basis**

Except as provided in subparagraph (B), from such remainder for each such fiscal year, the Commissioner shall make an allotment to the eligible system within a State of an amount bearing the same ratio to such remainder as the population of the State bears to the population of all States.

#### **(B) Minimums**

Subject to the availability of appropriations to carry out this section, and except as provided in paragraph (4), the allotment to any system under subparagraph (A) shall be not less than \$100,000 or  $\frac{1}{3}$  of 1 percent of the remainder for the fiscal year for which the allotment is made, whichever is greater, and the allotment to any system under this section for any fiscal year that is less than \$100,000 or  $\frac{1}{3}$  of 1 percent of such remainder shall be increased to the greater of the two amounts.

### **(4) Systems within other jurisdictions**

#### **(A) In general**

For the purposes of paragraph (3)(B), Guam, American Samoa, the United States Virgin Islands, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands shall not be considered to be States.

#### **(B) Allotment**

The eligible system within a jurisdiction described in subparagraph (A) shall be allotted under paragraph (3)(A) not less than \$50,000 for the fiscal year for which the allotment is made.

### **(5) Adjustment for inflation**

For any fiscal year, beginning in fiscal year 1999, in which the total amount appropriated to carry out this section exceeds the total amount appropriated to carry out this section for the preceding fiscal year, the Commissioner shall increase each of the minimum grants or allotments under paragraphs (1)(B), (3)(B), and (4)(B) by a percentage that shall not exceed the percentage increase in the total amount appropriated to carry out this section between the preceding fiscal year and the fiscal year involved.

### **(d) Proportional reduction**

To provide minimum allotments to systems within States (as increased under subsection (c)(5) of this section) under subsection (c)(3)(B) of this section, or to provide minimum allotments to systems within States (as increased under subsection (c)(5) of this section) under subsection (c)(4)(B) of this section, the Commissioner shall proportionately reduce the allotments of the remaining systems within States under subsection (c)(3) of this section, with such

<sup>1</sup> See References in Text note below.