

**APPROPRIATION FOR ASSISTIVE
TECHNOLOGY DEVICES AND SERVICES**

1998 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Sponsor: Nathan C. Tanner

AN ACT RELATING TO PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES; PROVIDING A \$400,000 APPROPRIATION TO THE STATE OFFICE OF REHABILITATION TO PURCHASE ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY DEVICES AND SERVICES; MAKING CERTAIN TECHNICAL CHANGES; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

This act affects sections of Utah Code Annotated 1953 as follows:

AMENDS:

53A-24-110.5, as enacted by Chapter 305, Laws of Utah 1996

ENACTS:

53A-24-110.7, Utah Code Annotated 1953

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:

Section 1. Section **53A-24-110.5** is amended to read:

53A-24-110.5. Assistive Technology Advisory Council -- Membership -- Duties.

(1) The State Board of Education, through the State Office of Rehabilitation, shall utilize the Rehabilitation Services Advisory Committee as an advisory council for the Center for Assistive Technology, an interagency service unit which assists Utahns with disabilities.

(2) The council shall advise and make recommendations to the executive director of the State Office of Rehabilitation on the programs and administration of the center that would:

- (a) be interagency in nature;
- (b) address the needs of all people with disabilities; and
- (c) be consumer responsive.

~~[(3) (a) There is appropriated from the General Fund for fiscal year 1996-97, \$80,000 and from the Uniform School Fund for fiscal year 1996-97, \$120,000 to the State Board of Education to be distributed to the State Office of Rehabilitation for base budget funding for the Center for Assistive Technology.]~~

~~[(b) The office shall use the appropriation to:]~~

~~[(i) provide assistance to Utah citizens of all ages with disabilities in acquiring, customizing, learning to use, and maintaining assistive technology to facilitate their independence; and]~~

~~[(ii) fund the activities of the Center for Assistive Technology as an interagency assistive technology demonstration, customization, and information hub.]~~

Section 2. Section **53A-24-110.7** is enacted to read:

53A-24-110.7. Appropriation for assistive technology devices and services.

(1) (a) There is appropriated from the Uniform School Fund for fiscal year 1998-99, \$200,000 and from the General Fund for fiscal year 1998-99, \$200,000 to the State Board of Education to be distributed to the State Office of Rehabilitation to purchase assistive technology devices and services in accordance with rules adopted by the State Board of Education.

(b) One-half of each \$200,000 appropriated under Subsection (1)(a) is for base budget funding and one-half of each appropriation is one-time funding.

(2) The office shall use the appropriation to provide:

(a) assistance to individuals with disabilities in acquiring, customizing, and learning to use and maintain assistive technology to facilitate their independence; and

(b) support through the Independent Living Centers and other similar programs to facilitate interagency cooperation in providing assistive technology devices and services.

Section 3. **Effective date.**

This act takes effect on July 1, 1998.