



**CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
COST ESTIMATE**

May 27, 2004

**H.R. 4278
Improving Access to Assistive Technology for Individuals
with Disabilities Act of 2004**

*As ordered reported by the House Committee on Education and the Workforce
on May 19, 2004*

SUMMARY

H.R. 4278 would reauthorize an expiring grant program that provides states with funding to enhance access to assistive technology for individuals with disabilities. The legislation also would direct the Secretary of Education to make grants to support protection and advocacy services under the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act. The bill would authorize the appropriation of \$26 million in 2005 and such sums as may be necessary for the following five years. Appropriations of authorized amounts would result in additional outlays of \$10 million in 2005 and \$113 million over the 2005-2009 period. Enacting the bill would not affect direct spending or revenues.

H.R. 4278 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined by the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA). Any costs incurred by state governments would result from complying with conditions of aid.

ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The estimated budgetary impact of H.R. 4278 is shown in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within budget function 500 (education, training, employment, and social services).

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions					
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION						
Spending for Assistive Technology Under Current Law						
Budget Authority ^a	26	0	0	0	0	0
Estimated Outlays	33	16	5	0	0	0
Proposed Changes						
State Grants for Assistive Technology and National Activities						
Estimated Authorization Level	0	22	22	22	23	23
Estimated Outlays	0	9	17	22	23	23
State Grants for Protection and Advocacy						
Estimated Authorization Level	0	4	5	5	5	5
Estimated Outlays	0	2	4	5	5	5
Total Changes						
Estimated Authorization Level	0	26	26	27	28	28
Estimated Outlays	0	10	21	27	27	28
Spending for Assistive Technology Under H.R. 4012						
Estimated Authorization Level ^a	26	26	26	27	28	28
Estimated Outlays	33	26	26	27	27	28

NOTES: Components may not sum to totals because of rounding.

a. The 2004 level is the amount appropriated for that year.

BASIS OF ESTIMATE

H.R. 4278 would reauthorize through 2010 programs established under the Assistive Technology Act of 1998. CBO assumes that H.R. 4278 would be enacted by October 1, 2004, and that the necessary amounts will be appropriated for each year.

State Grants for the Purchase of Assistive Technology and Services

The bill would reauthorize a grant program that helps states increase the access of individuals with disabilities to assistive technology devices and services. In addition, H.R. 4278 would

authorize the Secretary of Education to award grants on a competitive basis to provide technical assistance. These technical assistance activities would include the establishment of a National Public Internet Site, as well as assistance in information dissemination.

The bill would authorize the appropriation of \$21.5 million for these grants in 2005, and such sums as may be necessary through 2010. Assuming the appropriation of the authorized amounts, the resulting outlays would be \$9 million in 2005, and \$94 million over the 2005-2009 period.

State Grants for Protection and Advocacy Related to Assistive Technology

H.R. 4278 would direct the Secretary of Education to make grants to an entity in each state that would support the protection and advocacy services required under the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act. Entities receiving grants would be required to submit reports to both the Secretary and the state on its activities.

The bill would authorize the appropriation of \$4.4 million in 2005 and such sums as may be necessary for next five years. Assuming the appropriation of the necessary amounts, CBO estimates those provisions would result in outlays of \$2 million in 2005 and \$19 million over the 2005-2009 period.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT

H.R. 4278 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA. The bill would amend the Assistive Technology Act of 1998 to focus programs on directly providing assistance to the disabled rather than on establishing state administrative programs. CBO estimates that any costs to state, local, or tribal governments from these changes would not be significant and would result from complying with conditions of the federal grant program.

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