

S. 2401, 21st Century Assistive Technology Act

As reported by the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions on August 7, 2021

By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars	2022	2022-2026	2022-2031
Direct Spending (Outlays)	0	0	0
Revenues	0	0	0
Increase or Decrease (-) in the Deficit	0	0	0
Spending Subject to Appropriation (Outlays)	11	248	not estimated
Statutory pay-as-you-go procedures apply?	No	Mandate Effects	
Increases on-budget deficits in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2032?	No	Contains intergovernmental mandate?	No
		Contains private-sector mandate?	No

S. 2401 would reauthorize and amend programs authorized by the Assistive Technology Act of 1998 (ATA), including grants to states to provide support to people with disabilities. Although the authorization of appropriations for those programs expired at the end of 2010, the Department of Health and Human Services has continued to allocate funds for them, including \$37.5 million in 2021. The bill would authorize the appropriation of \$60 million in 2022 and the appropriation of whatever amounts are necessary for each year from 2023 through 2026 to help people with disabilities access assistive technology (e.g., wheelchairs, modified driving controls) and services that increase their functional capabilities. The bill also would amend the ATA to adjust the formula for distributing funds among states.

For this estimate, CBO assumes that S. 2401 will be enacted in calendar year 2022 and that the authorized and estimated amounts will be appropriated in each year. For years after 2022, CBO estimates the authorization amounts by increasing the amount that would be authorized for 2022 consistent with the inflation rates that underlie CBO's July 2021 baseline. Estimated outlays are based on historical spending patterns for existing or similar programs. On that basis, CBO estimates that implementing the bill would cost \$248 million over the 2022-2026 period.

The costs of the legislation, detailed in Table 1, fall within budget function 500 (education, training, employment, and social services).



Table 1.
Estimated Increases in Spending Subject to Appropriation Under S. 2401

	By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars					2022-2026
	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	
Estimated Authorization ^a	23	61	63	64	65	276
Estimated Outlays	11	46	62	64	65	248

a. In 2021, the Department of Health and Human Services allocated \$37.5 million to programs authorized by the Assistive Technology Act of 1998. Because CBO estimates budgetary effects on an annualized basis, in 2022 CBO assumes that the same amount will be available under the current continuing resolution (Public Law 117-70). The amount shown in 2022 reflects the difference between the authorized amount and the amount annualized under the continuing resolution.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Justin Latus. The estimate was reviewed by H. Samuel Papenfuss, Deputy Director of Budget Analysis.