

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to the law as it existed prior to this session of the General Assembly.

1 State of Arkansas  
2 83rd General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2001  
4

# A Bill

Act 530 of 2001  
SENATE BILL 396

5 By: Senator Trusty  
6  
7

## For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO AMEND VARIOUS SECTIONS OF THE ARKANSAS CODE  
10 WHICH PROVIDE TELECOMMUNICATIONS DEVICES FOR PERSONS  
11 WHO ARE DEAF, BLIND, SPEECH IMPAIRED, OR WHO HAVE  
12 OTHER DISABILITIES; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.  
13

## Subtitle

14 AN ACT TO AMEND VARIOUS SECTIONS OF THE  
15 ARKANSAS CODE WHICH PROVIDE  
16 TELECOMMUNICATIONS DEVICES FOR PERSONS  
17 WHO ARE DEAF, BLIND, SPEECH IMPAIRED, OR  
18 WHO HAVE OTHER DISABILITIES.  
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21

22 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
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24 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code 19-6-482 is amended to read as follows:  
25 19-6-482. Telecommunications Equipment Fund.

26 The Telecommunications Equipment Fund shall consist of those special  
27 revenues as specified in subdivision (129) of § 19-6-301. The fund shall be  
28 used exclusively by the ~~Office of the Deaf and Hearing Impaired of the~~  
29 ~~Division of Vocational and Technical Education of the Department of Education~~  
30 Arkansas Rehabilitation Services to fund an equipment distribution program for  
31 persons certified as deaf, hard of hearing, deaf and blind, or speech-impaired  
32 as provided otherwise in § 20-79-401 et seq.  
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34 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code 20-79-401 is amended to read as follows:  
35 20-79-401. Statewide program established.

36 (a)(1) The ~~Office for the Deaf and Hearing Impaired of Arkansas~~

1 Rehabilitation Services is hereby directed to establish, administer, staff,  
 2 and promote a statewide program to provide access to public telecommunications  
 3 services by residents of Arkansas who are deaf, hard of hearing, deaf and  
 4 blind, ~~and others such as the~~ severely speech-impaired or who have other  
 5 disabilities that impair their ability to effectively access the  
 6 telecommunication network. This program will enable these individuals to  
 7 access specialized devices or services for telecommunication network access  
 8 that is functionally equivalent to that enjoyed by individuals without  
 9 disabilities.

10 (2) This program shall include, but is not limited to:

11 (A) The purchase and distribution of telecommunications  
 12 devices and related devices for the persons who are deaf, hard of hearing,  
 13 deaf and blind, ~~and for others who are~~ severely speech-impaired or who have  
 14 other disabilities that impair their ability to effectively access the  
 15 telecommunication network;

16 (B) The promulgation of procedures, regulations, rules, and  
 17 criteria necessary to implement and administer this program, including  
 18 accountability measures which utilize consumer participation in the selection  
 19 and evaluation of equipment and the eligibility of applicants; and

20 (C) Other actions as may be necessary to implement and  
 21 administer this program which are not otherwise prohibited by law.

22 (b) ~~The Office for the Deaf and Hearing Impaired~~ Arkansas  
 23 Rehabilitation Services shall employ at least one (1) full-time staff person  
 24 to administer the equipment distribution program and may employ any additional  
 25 support personnel for the program from within existing staff resources to  
 26 assure statewide coverage for the program.

27  
 28 SECTION 3. Arkansas Code 20-79-402(a) is amended to read as follows:

29 (a) In order for a person to be eligible for the equipment distribution  
 30 program, a person shall be certified as deaf, hard of hearing, deaf and blind,  
 31 ~~or~~ speech-impaired, or having another disability that impairs the individual's  
 32 ability to effectively access the telecommunication network by a licensed  
 33 physician, audiologist, or speech pathologist or by any other method  
 34 recognized by the ~~Office for the Deaf and Hearing Impaired~~ Arkansas  
 35 Rehabilitation Services.

SECTION 4. Arkansas Code 20-79-403(a)(1) & (2) are amended to read as follows:

(a)(1) Equipment purchased under this subchapter shall remain the property of the State of Arkansas for two (2) years and then become the property of the recipient of the equipment.

(2) A person who receives the equipment shall be responsible for the maintenance of the equipment and liable to the ~~Office for the Deaf and Hearing Impaired~~ Arkansas Rehabilitation Services for the loss of or damage to the equipment.

APPROVED: 3/01/2001

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