

(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; Pub. L. 113-128, title IV, § 456(d), July 22, 2014, 128 Stat. 1676.)

Editorial Notes

AMENDMENTS

2014—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 113-128 inserted “the Chairperson of the National Council on Disability,” before “and such other”.

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.

Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

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 defini-

tion 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), 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).

(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).

(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) and prepare the reports under subsection (d).

(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), any individual with a disability may file a complaint alleging that a Federal department or agency fails to comply with subsection (a)(1) 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 pub-

lication by the Access Board of final standards described in subsection (a)(2).

(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.)

Editorial Notes

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),” 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).” 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”.

§ 794d-1. Reports on accessibility of electronic information to individuals with disabilities

(a)(1) Not later than 100 days after December 29, 2022, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget (in this section referred to as the “Director”), in coordination with the Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board and the Administrator of General Services (in this section referred to as the “Administrator”), shall disseminate amended or updated criteria and instructions to any Federal department or agency (in this section referred to as an “agency”) covered by section 794d of this title for the evaluation required pursuant to paragraph (3)(B).

(2) Such criteria and instructions shall—

(A) include, at minimum, requirements that information technologies and digital services must—

(i) conform to the technical standards referenced in subsection (a)(2)(A) of such section 794d of this title, as determined by appropriate conformance testing; and

(ii) be accessible to and usable by individuals with disabilities as determined from consultation with individuals with disabilities, including those with visual, auditory, tactile, and cognitive disabilities, or members of any disability organization; and

(B) provide guidance to agencies regarding the types and format of data and information to be submitted to the Director and the Administrator pursuant to paragraph (3), including how to submit such data and information, the metrics by which compliance will be assessed in the reports required in subsection (b), and any other directions necessary for agencies to demonstrate compliance with accessibility standards for electronic and information technology procured and in use within an agency, as required by such section 794d of this title.

(3) Not later than 225 days after December 29, 2022, the head of each agency shall—

(A) evaluate the extent to which the electronic and information technology of the agency are accessible to and usable by individuals with disabilities described in subsection (a)(1) of such section 794d of this title compared to the access to and use of the technology and services by individuals described in such section who are not individuals with disabilities;

(B) evaluate the electronic and information technology of the agency in accordance with the criteria and instructions provided in paragraph (1); and

(C) submit a report containing the evaluations jointly to the Director and the Administrator.