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<td><strong>TITLE IV- Amendments to the Rehabilitation Act of 1973</strong></td>
<td><strong>TITLE IV – Amendments to the Rehabilitation Act</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Sec. 101 STATE PLANS <code>(7) Comprehensive system of personnel development.--The State plan shall-- </code>(A) include a description (consistent with the purposes of this Act) of a comprehensive system of personnel development, which shall include—<strong>INSERT NEW LANGUAGE HERE</strong> -- A system for the continuing education of rehabilitation professionals and paraprofessionals within the designated State unit, particularly with respect to rehabilitation technology; including training implemented in coordination with entities carrying out State programs under section 4 of the Assistive Technology Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 3003)”</td>
<td>Sec. 412 STATE PLANS COMPREHENSIVE SYSTEM OF PERSONNEL DEVELOPMENT <em>(Page 595)</em> – The State Plan shall- (A) include a description (consistent with the purposes of this Act) of a comprehensive system of personnel development which shall include - A system for the continuing education of rehabilitation professionals and paraprofessionals within the designated State unit, particularly with respect to rehabilitation technology; including training implemented in coordination with entities carrying out State programs under section 4 of the Assistive Technology Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 3003)”</td>
<td>The new language places an emphasis on rehabilitation professionals being provided the training in rehabilitation technology. State Assistive Technology Programs are expected to coordinate with Vocational Rehabilitation in order to aid States train these professionals in rehabilitation technology.</td>
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*October 2014*
``(i) a description of the procedures and activities the designated State agency will undertake to ensure an adequate supply of qualified State rehabilitation professionals and paraprofessionals for the designated State unit, including the development and maintenance of a system for determining, on an annual basis--

``(I) the number and type of personnel that are employed by the designated State unit in the provision of vocational rehabilitation services, including ratios of qualified vocational rehabilitation counselors to clients; and

``(II) the number and type of personnel needed by the State, and a projection of the numbers of such personnel that will be needed in 5 years, based on projections of the number of individuals to be served, the number of such personnel who are expected to retire or leave the vocational rehabilitation field, and other relevant factors;

``(ii) where appropriate, a
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<th>description of the manner in which activities will be undertaken under this section to coordinate the system of personnel development with personnel development activities under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1400 et seq.);</th>
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<td>`(iii) a description of the development and maintenance of a system of determining, on an annual basis, information on the programs of institutions of higher education within the State that are preparing rehabilitation professionals, including--</td>
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``(II) provides for the coordination and facilitation of efforts between the designated State unit, institutions of higher education, and professional associations to recruit, prepare, and retain qualified personnel, including personnel from minority backgrounds, and personnel who are individuals with disabilities; and
``(v) a description of the procedures and activities the designated State agency will undertake to ensure that all personnel employed by the designated State unit are appropriately and adequately trained and prepared, including:
``(I) a system for the continuing education of rehabilitation professionals and paraprofessionals within the designated State unit, particularly with respect to rehabilitation technology; and
``(II) procedures for acquiring and disseminating to rehabilitation professionals and paraprofessionals within the designated State unit significant knowledge from research and other sources, including procedures for providing training regarding the amendments to this Act made by the
**Association of Assistive Technology Act Programs (ATAP)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rehabilitation Act Amendments of 1998;</th>
<th>Sec. 412 STATE PLANS COOPERATION, COLLABORATION, AND COORDINATION— (Page 604)</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Sec. 101 STATE PLANS</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>11) Cooperation, collaboration, and</td>
<td>(C) INTERAGENCY COOPERATION WITH OTHER AGENCIES –The State plan shall include</td>
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<td>coordination.—</td>
<td>descriptions of interagency cooperation with, and utilization of the services</td>
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<td>and facilities of, Federal, State, and local agencies and programs including the</td>
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<td>State programs carried out under section 4 of the Assistive Technology Act of</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Sec. 412 STATE PLANS COOPERATION, COLLABORATION, AND COORDINATION—</td>
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<td>– The State plan shall include an assurance that the designated State unit, and</td>
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<td>the lead agency and implementing entity (if any) designated by the Governor of</td>
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<td>the State under</td>
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This new language in the WIOA emphasizes the importance of coordinating activities between State Assistive Technology Programs and other agencies.

Such cooperation, collaboration and coordination, outlined in both of these excerpts of the law means that Congress acknowledges the critical role State Assistive Technology Programs play in the delivery of appropriate VR services to clients who need AT to achieve or maintain employment. This language supports formal agreements, memoranda of understanding, contracts or other similar arrangements to formalize the interaction of the two programs to ensure maximum coordination and cost effective service delivery of AT for VR clients. It states that “an assurance” that such relationships have formed should be included in the state plan.
nondiscriminatory policies and procedures, and the provision of reasonable accommodations, auxiliary aids and services, and rehabilitation technology, for individuals with disabilities;

```
(ii) use of information and financial management systems that link all components of the statewide workforce investment system, that link the components to other electronic networks, including nonvisual electronic networks, and that relate to such subjects as employment statistics, and information on job vacancies, career planning, and workforce investment activities;
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(iii) use of customer service features such as common intake and referral procedures, customer databases, resource information, and human services hotlines;
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(iv) establishment of cooperative efforts with employers to--
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(I) facilitate job placement; and
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(II) carry out any other activities that the designated State unit and the employers determine to be appropriate;
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(v) identification of staff roles, responsibilities, and available resources, and
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section 4 of the Assistive Technology Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 3003), have developed working relationships and will enter into agreements for the coordination of their activities, including the referral of individuals with disabilities to programs and activities described in that section.
specification of the financial responsibility of each component of the statewide workforce investment system with regard to paying for necessary services (consistent with State law and Federal requirements); and

``(vi) specification of procedures for resolving disputes among such components.
``

``(B) Replication of cooperative agreements.—The State plan shall provide for the replication of such cooperative agreements at the local level between individual offices of the designated State unit and local entities carrying out activities through the statewide workforce investment system.
``

``(C) Interagency cooperation with other agencies.—The State plan shall include descriptions of interagency cooperation with, and utilization of the services and facilities of, Federal, State, and local agencies and programs, including programs carried out by the Under Secretary for Rural Development of the Department of Agriculture and State use contracting programs, to the extent that
such agencies and programs are not carrying out activities through the statewide workforce investment system. INSERT NEW LANGUAGE HERE -- (C) INTERAGENCY COOPERATION WITH OTHER AGENCIES – The State plan shall include descriptions of interagency cooperation with, and utilization of the services and facilities of, Federal, State, and local agencies and programs including the State programs carried out under section 4 of the Assistive Technology Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 3003).

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(D) Coordination with education officials.—The State plan shall contain plans, policies, and procedures for coordination between the designated State agency and education officials responsible for the public education of students with disabilities, that are designed to facilitate the transition of the students with disabilities from the receipt of educational services in school to the receipt of vocational rehabilitation services under this title, including information on a formal interagency agreement with the State educational agency that, at a
Association of Assistive Technology Act Programs (ATAP)

minimum, provides for—

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(i) consultation and technical assistance to assist educational agencies in planning for the transition of students with disabilities from school to post-school activities, including vocational rehabilitation services;

(ii) transition planning by personnel of the designated State agency and educational agency personnel for students with disabilities that facilitates the development and completion of their individualized education programs under section 614(d) of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (as added by section 101 of Public Law 105-17);

(iii) the roles and responsibilities, including financial responsibilities, of each agency, including provisions for determining State lead agencies and qualified personnel responsible for transition services; and

(iv) procedures for outreach to and identification of students with disabilities who need the transition services.
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(E) Coordination with statewide independent living councils and independent live
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living centers.--The State plan shall include an
assurance that the designated State unit, the
Statewide Independent Living Council
established under section 705, and the
independent living centers described in part C
of title VII within the State have developed
working relationships and coordinate their
activities.

``(F) Cooperative agreement with
recipients of grants for services to american
indians.—In applicable cases, the State plan
shall include an assurance that the State has
entered into a formal cooperative agreement
with each grant recipient in the State that
receives funds under part C. The agreement
shall describe strategies for collaboration and
coordination in providing vocational
rehabilitation services to American Indians
who are individuals with disabilities,
including—
``(i) strategies for interagency referral and
information sharing that will assist in eligibility
determinations and the development of
individualized plans for employment;
``(ii) procedures for ensuring
that American Indians who are individuals
with disabilities and are living near a
reservation or tribal service area are provided vocational rehabilitation services; and

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(iii) provisions for sharing resources in cooperative studies and assessments, joint training activities, and other collaborative activities designed to improve the provision of services to American Indians who are individuals with disabilities.
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NEW LANGUAGE WAS INSERTED HERE-----

COOPERATION, COLLABORATION, AND COORDINATION - COORDINATION WITH ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY PROGRAMS – The State plan shall include an assurance that the designated State unit, and the lead agency and implementing entity (if any) designated by the Governor of the State under section 4 of the Assistive Technology Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 3003), have developed working relationships and will enter into agreements for the coordination of their activities, including the referral of individuals with disabilities to programs and activities described in that section.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sec. 102 ELIGIBILITY AND INDIVIDUALIZED</th>
<th>Sec. 413 ELIGIBILITY AND INDIVIDUALIZED PLAN FOR EMPLOYMENT--</th>
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October 2014
**PLAN FOR EMPLOYMENT**

(3) MANDATORY COMPONENTS OF AN INDIVIDUALIZED PLAN FOR EMPLOYMENT

Regardless of the approach selected by an eligible individual to develop an individualized plan for employment, an individualized plan for employment shall, at a minimum, contain mandatory components consisting of—

(A) a description of the specific employment outcome that is chosen by the eligible individual, consistent with the unique strengths, resources, priorities, concerns, abilities, capabilities, interests, and informed choice of the eligible individual, and, to the maximum extent appropriate, results in employment in an integrated setting;

(B)(i) a description of the specific vocational rehabilitation services that are—

(I) needed to achieve the employment outcome, including, as appropriate, the provision of assistive technology devices and assistive technology services, and personal assistance services, including training in the management of such services; and

``(F) TIMEFRAME FOR COMPLETING THE INDIVIDUALIZED PLAN FOR EMPLOYMENT. —
(Page 621)
``

MANDATORY COMPONENTS OF AN INDIVIDUALIZED PLAN FOR EMPLOYMENT

Needed to achieve the employment outcome, including as appropriate—

The provision of assistive technology devices and assistive technology services (including referrals described in section 103(a)(3) to the device reutilization programs and demonstrations described in subparagraphs (B) and (D) of section 4(e)(2) of the Assistive Technology Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 3003(e)(2)) through agreements developed under section 101(a)(11)(I); and

(bb) personal assistance services (including training in the management of such services);
``(II) provided in the most integrated setting that is appropriate for the service involved and is consistent with the informed choice of the eligible individual; and
``(ii) timelines for the achievement of the employment outcome and for the initiation of the services;
``(C) a description of the entity chosen by the eligible individual or, as appropriate, the individual’s representative, that will provide the vocational rehabilitation services, and the methods used to procure such services;
``(D) a description of criteria to evaluate progress toward achievement of the employment outcome;
``(E) the terms and conditions of the individualized plan for employment, including, as appropriate, information describing--
``(i) the responsibilities of the designated State unit;
``(ii) the responsibilities of the eligible individual, including--
``(I) the responsibilities the eligible individual will assume in
relation to the employment outcome of the individual; 
``(II) if applicable, the participation of the eligible individual in paying for the costs of the plan; and 
``(III) the responsibility of the eligible individual with regard to applying for and securing comparable benefits as described in section 101(a)(8); and 
``(iii) the responsibilities of other entities as the result of arrangements made pursuant to comparable services or benefits requirements as described in section 101(a)(8);"

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<th>SEC. 103. VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION SERVICES.</th>
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<td>(b) Vocational Rehabilitation Services for Groups of Individuals.</td>
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| --Vocational rehabilitation services provided for the benefit of groups of individuals with disabilities may also include the following: 
``(1) In the case of any type of small business operated by individuals with significant disabilities the operation of which |
| Sec. 414 VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION SERVICES (Page 627) |
| (b) VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION SERVICES FOR GROUPS OF INDIVIDUALS -- Vocational rehabilitation services provided for the benefit of groups of individuals with disabilities may also include the following: |
| This language ensures that the four state-level activities, provided by the Assistive Technology Act, are a part of the benefits groups of individuals with disabilities can receive using vocational rehabilitation dollars. The VR services for groups of individuals can include support of programs provided by State AT programs such as AT device reutilization programs, device loan, device demonstration or financing activities. Agreements, |
can be improved by management services and supervision provided by the designated State agency, the provision of such services and supervision, along or together with the acquisition by the designated State agency of vending facilities or other equipment and initial stocks and supplies.

``(2)(A) The establishment, development, or improvement of community rehabilitation programs, including, under special circumstances, the construction of a facility. Such programs shall be used to provide services that promote integration and competitive employment.

``(B) The provision of other services, that promise to contribute substantially to the rehabilitation of a group of individuals but that are not related directly to the individualized plan for employment of any 1 individual with a disability.

``(3) The use of telecommunications systems (including telephone, television, satellite, radio, and other similar systems) that have the potential for substantially improving delivery methods of activities described in this section and developing appropriate programming to meet the particular needs

``(8) The establishment, development, or improvement of assistive technology demonstration, loan, reutilization, or financing programs in coordination with activities authorized under the Assistive Technology Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 3001 et seq.) to promote access to assistive technology for individuals with disabilities and employers.

memoranda of understanding, contracts and other similar arrangements between the VR agency and State Assistive Technology programs increase the effectiveness of the intended coordination of such relationships. Congress intended for there to be some type of agreement to coordinate.
of individuals with disabilities.
``(4)(A) Special services to provide nonvisual access to information for individuals who are blind, including the use of telecommunications, Braille, sound recordings, or other appropriate media.
``(B) Captioned television, films, or video cassettes for individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing.
``(C) Tactile materials for individuals who are deaf-blind.
``(D) Other special services that provide information through tactile, vibratory, auditory, and visual media.
``(5) Technical assistance and support services to businesses that are not subject to title I of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12111 et seq.) and that are seeking to employ individuals with disabilities.
``(6) Consultative and technical assistance services to assist educational agencies in planning for the transition of students with disabilities from school to post-school activities, including employment.

NEW LANGUAGE IS INSERTED HERE-----
``(8) The establishment, development, or
Association of Assistive Technology Act Programs (ATAP)

| Improvement of assistive technology demonstration, loan, reutilization, or financing programs in coordination with activities authorized under the Assistive Technology Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 3001 et seq.) to promote access to assistive technology for individuals with disabilities and employers. |
| SEC. 105. STATE REHABILITATION COUNCIL. |
| `(a) Establishment.-- ` `(1) In general.--Except as provided in section 101(a)(21)(A)(i), to be eligible to receive financial assistance under this title a State shall establish a State Rehabilitation Council (referred to in this section as the `Council`) in accordance with this section. ` `(2) Separate agency for individuals who are blind.--A State that designates a State agency to administer the part of the State plan under which vocational rehabilitation services are provided for individuals who are blind under section 101(a)(2)(A)(i) may establish a separate Council in accordance with this section to perform the duties of such a Council. |
| SEC. 415 STATE REHABILITATION COUNCIL |
| `(c) FUNCTIONS OF COUNCIL.—The Council shall, after consulting with the State workforce development board— `(1) review, analyze, and advise the designated State unit regarding the performance of the responsibilities of the unit under this title, particularly responsibilities relating to— `(A) eligibility (including order of selection); `(B) the extent, scope, and effectiveness of services provided; and `(C) functions performed by State agencies that affect or that potentially affect the ability of individuals with disabilities in achieving |

The new language adjusts the “Functions of the Council” to increase the coordination with the State Rehabilitation Council/VR between a variety of statewide entities (or State Boards) and State Assistive Technology Act programs. The coordination required by the State Rehabilitation Council is intended to create transparency between other State Boards and federal/state programs in order to increase coordination, leverage existing expertise, and to avoid duplication of efforts. This language is another iteration of the law reinforcing the need for VR to coordinate their efforts with State Assistive Technology programs.
(b) Composition and Appointment.--
   (1) Composition.--
      (A) In general.--Except in the case of a separate Council established under subsection (a)(2), the Council shall be composed of--
      (i) at least one representative of the Statewide Independent Living Council established under section 705, which representative may be the chairperson or other designee of the Council;
      (ii) at least one representative of a parent training and information center established pursuant to section 682(a) of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (as added by section 101 of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act Amendments of 1997; Public Law 105-17);
      (iii) at least one representative of the client assistance program established under section 112;
      (iv) at least one qualified vocational rehabilitation counselor, with knowledge of and experience with vocational rehabilitation programs, who shall serve as an employment outcomes under this title;
   (2) in partnership with the designated State unit—
      (A) develop, agree to, and review State goals and priorities in accordance with section 101(a)(15)(C); and
      (B) evaluate the effectiveness of the vocational rehabilitation program and submit reports of progress to the Commissioner in accordance with section 101(a)(15)(E);
   (3) advise the designated State agency and the designated State unit regarding activities authorized to be carried out under this title, and assist in the preparation of the State plan and amendments to the plan, applications, reports, needs assessments, and evaluations required by this title;
   (4) to the extent feasible, conduct a review and analysis of the effectiveness of, and consumer satisfaction with—
      (A) the functions performed by the designated State agency;
      (B) vocational rehabilitation services provided by State agencies and other public and private entities responsible for providing vocational rehabilitation services to

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<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(v)</td>
<td>at least one representative of community rehabilitation program service providers;</td>
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<td>(vi)</td>
<td>four representatives of business, industry, and labor;</td>
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<tr>
<td>(vii)</td>
<td>representatives of disability advocacy groups representing a cross section of--</td>
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<tr>
<td>(I)</td>
<td>individuals with physical, cognitive, sensory, and mental disabilities; and</td>
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<td>(II)</td>
<td>individuals with disabilities under this Act; and</td>
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<tr>
<td>(viii)</td>
<td>current or former applicants for, or recipients of, vocational rehabilitation services;</td>
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<tr>
<td>(ix)</td>
<td>in a State in which one or more projects are carried out under section 121, at least one representative of the directors of the projects;</td>
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<td>at least one representative</td>
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of the State educational agency responsible for the public education of students with disabilities who are eligible to receive services under this title and part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act; and

``(xi) at least one representative of the State workforce investment board.

``(B) Separate council.--In the case of a separate Council established under subsection (a)(2), the Council shall be composed of--

``(i) at least one representative described in subparagraph (A)(i);

``(ii) at least one representative described in subparagraph (A)(ii);

``(iii) at least one representative described in subparagraph (A)(iii);

``(iv) at least one vocational rehabilitation counselor described in subparagraph (A)(iv), who shall serve as described in such subparagraph;

``(v) at least one representative described in subparagraph (A)(v);

``(vi) four representatives described in subparagraph (A)(vi);

``(vii) at least one representative of a disability advocacy group

the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300x-3(a)) and the State workforce development board, and with the activities of entities carrying out programs under the Assistive Technology Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 300119 et seq.);

“(7) provide for coordination and the establishment of working relationships between the designated State agency and the Statewide Independent Living Council and centers for independent living within the State; and

“(8) perform such other functions, consistent with the purpose of this title, as the State Rehabilitation Council determines to be appropriate, that are comparable to the other functions performed by the Council.

“(d) RESOURCES.—

“(1) PLAN.—The Council shall prepare, in conjunction with the designated State unit, a plan for the provision of such resources, including such staff and other personnel, as may be necessary and sufficient to carry out the functions of the Council under this section. The resource plan shall, to the maximum extent possible, rely on
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representing individuals who are blind;
``(viii) at least one individual's representative, of an individual who--
``(I) is an individual who is blind and has multiple disabilities; and
``(II) has difficulty in representing himself or herself or is unable due to disabilities to represent himself or herself;
``(ix) applicants or recipients described in subparagraph (A)(viii);
``(x) in a State described in subparagraph (A)(ix), at least one representative described in such subparagraph;
``(xi) at least one representative described in subparagraph (A)(x); and
``(xii) at least one representative described in subparagraph (A)(xi).
``(C) Exception.—In the case of a separate Council established under subsection (a)(2), any Council that is required by State law, as in effect on the date of enactment of the Rehabilitation Act Amendments of 1992, to have fewer than 15 members shall be the use of resources in existence during the period of implementation of the plan.
``(2) RESOLUTION OF DISAGREEMENTS.—To the extent that there is a disagreement between the Council and the designated State unit in regard to the resources necessary to carry out the functions of the Council as set forth in this section, the disagreement shall be resolved by the Governor consistent with paragraph (1).
``(3) SUPERVISION AND EVALUATION.—Each Council shall, consistent with State law, supervise and evaluate such staff and other personnel as may be necessary to carry out its functions under this section.
``(4) PERSONNEL CONFLICT OF INTEREST.—While assisting the Council in carrying out its duties, staff and other personnel shall not be assigned duties by the designated State unit or any other agency or office of the State, that would create a conflict of interest.
``(e) CONFLICT OF INTEREST.—No member of the Council shall cast a vote on any matter that would provide direct financial benefit to the member or otherwise give the appearance of a conflict of interest under State law.
deemed to be in compliance with subparagraph (B) if the Council—
~~(i)~~ meets the requirements of subparagraph (B), other than the requirements of clauses (vi) and (ix) of such subparagraph; and
~~(ii)~~ includes at least—
~~(I)~~ one representative described in subparagraph (B)(vi); and
~~(II)~~ one applicant or recipient described in subparagraph (B)(ix).
~~(2)~~ Ex officio member.—The Director of the designated State unit shall be an ex officio, nonvoting member of the Council.
~~(3)~~ Appointment.—Members of the Council shall be appointed by the Governor. The Governor shall select members after soliciting recommendations from representatives of organizations representing a broad range of individuals with disabilities and organizations interested in individuals with disabilities. In selecting members, the Governor shall consider, to the greatest extent practicable, the extent to which minority populations are represented on the Council.
~~(4)~~ Qualifications.—
~~(f)~~ MEETINGS.—The Council shall convene at least four meetings a year in such places as it determines to be necessary to conduct Council business and conduct such forums or hearings as the Council considers appropriate. The meetings, hearings, and forums shall be publicly announced. The meetings shall be open and accessible to the general public unless there is a valid reason for an executive session.
~~(g)~~ COMPENSATION AND EXPENSES.—The Council may use funds allocated to the Council by the designated State unit under this title (except for funds appropriated to carry out the client assistance program under section 112 and funds reserved pursuant to section 110(c) to carry out part C) to reimburse members of the Council for reasonable and necessary expenses of attending Council meetings and performing Council duties (including child care and personal assistance services), and to pay compensation to a member of the Council, if such member is not employed or must forfeit wages from other employment, for each day the member is engaged in performing the duties of the Council.
``(A) In general.—A majority of Council members shall be persons who are—
``(i) individuals with disabilities described in section 7(20)(A); and
``(ii) not employed by the designated State unit.
``(B) Separate council.—In the case of a separate Council established under subsection (a)(2), a majority of Council members shall be persons who are—
``(i) blind; and
``(ii) not employed by the designated State unit.
``(5) Chairperson.—
``(A) In general.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), the Council shall select a chairperson from among the membership of the Council.
``(B) Designation by governor.—In States in which the chief executive officer does not have veto power pursuant to State law, the Governor shall designate a member of the Council to serve as the chairperson of the Council or shall require the Council to so designate such a member.
``(6) Terms of appointment.—
``(A) Length of term.—Each

``(h) HEARINGS AND FORUMS.—The Council is authorized to hold such hearings and forums as the Council may determine to be necessary to carry out the duties of the Council.
member of the Council shall serve for a term of not more than 3 years, except that--

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(i) a member appointed to fill a vacancy occurring prior to the expiration of the term for which a predecessor was appointed, shall be appointed for the remainder of such term; and
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(ii) the terms of service of the members initially appointed shall be (as specified by the Governor) for such fewer number of years as will provide for the expiration of terms on a staggered basis.
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(B) Number of terms.--No member of the Council, other than a representative described in clause (iii) or (ix) of paragraph (1)(A), or clause (iii) or (x) of paragraph (1)(B), may serve more than two consecutive full terms.
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(7) Vacancies.--
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(A) In general.--Except as provided in subparagraph (B), any vacancy occurring in the membership of the Council shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment. The vacancy shall not affect the power of the remaining members to execute the duties of the Council.
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``(B) Delegation.--The Governor may delegate the authority to fill such a vacancy to the remaining members of the Council after making the original appointment.

``(c) Functions of Council.--The Council shall, after consulting with the State workforce investment board--
   ``(1) review, analyze, and advise the designated State unit regarding the performance of the responsibilities of the unit under this title, particularly responsibilities relating to--
      ``(A) eligibility (including order of selection);
      ``(B) the extent, scope, and effectiveness of services provided; and
      ``(C) functions performed by State agencies that affect or that potentially affect the ability of individuals with disabilities in achieving employment outcomes under this title;
   ``(2) in partnership with the designated State unit--
      ``(A) develop, agree to, and review State goals and priorities in accordance with
section 101(a)(15)(C); and
   `(B) evaluate the effectiveness of
the vocational rehabilitation program and
submit reports of progress to the
Commissioner in accordance with section
101(a)(15)(E);
   `(3) advise the designated State agency
and the designated State unit regarding
activities authorized to be carried out under
this title, and assist in the preparation of the
State plan and amendments to the plan,
applications, reports, needs assessments, and
evaluations required by this title;
   `(4) to the extent feasible, conduct a
review and analysis of the effectiveness of,
and consumer satisfaction with--
   `(A) the functions performed by
the designated State agency;
   `(B) vocational rehabilitation
services provided by State agencies and other
public and private entities responsible for
providing vocational rehabilitation services to
individuals with disabilities under this Act; and
   `(C) employment outcomes
achieved by eligible individuals receiving
services under this title, including the
availability of health and other employment
benefits in connection with such employment outcomes;

```
(5) <<NOTE: Reports.>> prepare and submit an annual report to the Governor and the Commissioner on the status of vocational rehabilitation programs operated within the State, and make the report available to the public;
```

```
(6) to avoid duplication of efforts and enhance the number of individuals served, coordinate activities with the activities of other councils within the State, including the Statewide Independent Living Council established under section 705, the advisory panel established under section 612(a)(21) of the Individual with Disabilities Education Act (as amended by section 101 of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act Amendments of 1997; Public Law 105-17), the State Developmental Disabilities Council described in section 124 of the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act (42 U.S.C. 6024), the State mental health planning council established under section 1914(a) of the Public Health (STRIKE) Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300x-4(a)), and the State workforce investment board INSERT - Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300x-4(a)), and the..."
U.S.C. 300x–3(a)) and the State workforce development board, and with the activities of entities carrying out programs under the Assistive Technology Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 3001–19 et seq.);

```
(7) provide for coordination and the establishment of working relationships between the designated State agency and the Statewide Independent Living Council and centers for independent living within the State; and
```

```
(8) perform such other functions, consistent with the purpose of this title, as the State Rehabilitation Council determines to be appropriate, that are comparable to the other functions performed by the Council.
```

**RESEARCH AND OTHER COVERED ACTIVITIES**

(2)(A) Research grants may be used for the establishment and support of Rehabilitation Research and Training Centers, for the purpose of providing an integrated program of research, which Centers shall--

```
(i) be operated in collaboration with
```

Within the Rehabilitation Act, there is funding for research grants to establish and support the Rehabilitation Research and Training Centers. This new language outlines that not only should these centers be operated in collaboration with a university but also entities providing assistive technology devices and services. State Assistive Technology Act...
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>institutions of higher education or providers of rehabilitation services or other appropriate services; and</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>INSERT -- be operated in collaboration with institutions of higher education, providers of rehabilitation services, developers or providers of assistive technology devices, assistive technology services, or information technology devices or services, as appropriate, or providers of other appropriate services; and</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

```
(C) The research to be carried out at each such Center may include—

```

(i) basic or applied medical rehabilitation research, including research on assistive technology devices, assistive technology services, and accessible electronic and information technology devices;
```

(ii) research regarding the psychological and social aspects of rehabilitation, including disability policy;
```

(iii) research related to vocational rehabilitation;
```

(iv) continuation of research that

<table>
<thead>
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<th>programs would qualify as such an entity.</th>
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<td>Additionally, the law includes what type of research should be conducted. The topic of research outlined in the law includes research on assistive technology services and devices.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

```
(D) Training of students preparing to be independent living or rehabilitation personnel or to provide independent living, rehabilitative, assistive, or supportive services (such as rehabilitation counseling, personal care services, direct care, job coaching, aides settings, or advice or assistance in utilizing assistive technology devices, assistive technology services, and accessible information technology devices. This is a priority for each Center.
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promotes the emotional, social, educational, and functional growth of children who are individuals with disabilities; and

``(v) continuation of research to develop and evaluate interventions, policies, and services that support families of those children and adults who are individuals with disabilities; and

``(vi) continuation of research that will improve services and policies that foster the productivity, independence, and social integration of individuals with disabilities, and enable individuals with disabilities, including individuals with mental retardation and other developmental disabilities, to live in their communities.

``(D) Training of students preparing to be rehabilitation personnel shall be an important priority for such a Center. INSERT -- Training of students preparing to be independent living or rehabilitation personnel or to provide independent living, rehabilitative, assistive, or supportive services (such as rehabilitation counseling, personal care services, direct care, job coaching, aides in school based settings, or advice or assistance in utilizing assistive electronic and information technology devices and services) shall be an important priority for each such Center.
Association of Assistive Technology Act Programs (ATAP)

<table>
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<th>technology devices, assistive technology services, and accessible electronic and information technology devices and services) shall be an important priority for each such Center.”</th>
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<th><strong>Sec. 205 REHABILITAION RESEARCH ADVISORY COUNCIL</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>c) Qualifications.--Members of the Council shall be generally representative of the community of rehabilitation professionals, the community of rehabilitation researchers, the community of individuals with disabilities, and the individuals' representatives. At least one-half of the members shall be individuals with disabilities or the individuals' representatives.</td>
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<tr>
<th><strong>Sec. 436 DISABILITY, INDEPENDENT LIVING, AND REHABILITATION RESEARCH ADVISORY COUNCIL</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(c) QUALIFICATIONS - Members of the Council shall be generally representative of the community of disability, independent living, and rehabilitation professionals, the community of disability, independent living, and rehabilitation researchers, the directors of independent living centers and community rehabilitation programs, the business community (including a representative of the small business community) that has experience with the system of vocational rehabilitation services and independent living services carried out</td>
</tr>
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</table>

The qualifications for the Disability, Independent Living and Rehabilitation Research Advisory Council have been modified to include a wider variety of expertise. Included in this expansion is the requirement that there is representation on the Council with a stake in assistive technology. This is very broad, with little clarification, and therefore could be interpreted to include individuals affiliated with State AT Programs.
under this Act and with hiring individuals with disabilities, the community of stakeholders involved in assistive technology, the community of covered school professionals, and the community of individuals with disabilities, and the individuals’ representatives. At least one-half of the members shall be individuals with disabilities or the individuals’ representatives.”; and

| N/A | SUBTITLE I — GENERAL PROVISIONS SECTION 491 TRANSFER FUNCTIONS REGARDING INDEPENDENT LIVING TO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND SAVINGS PROVISIONS. (Page 747) (m) ADMINISTRATION FOR COMMUNITY LIVING.— (1) TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS.—There are transferred to the Administration for Community Living, all functions which the Commissioner of the Rehabilitation Services Administration exercised before the effective date of this section (including all related functions of any officer or employee of that Administration) under the Assistive Technology Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 3001 et | This language transfers all activities that were administered by the Rehabilitation Services Administration to the Administration for Community Living. |
(2) ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS.—Subsections (d) through (l) shall apply to transfers described in paragraph (1).