

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 3544

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 13, 2022

Received; read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and
Governmental Affairs

AN ACT

To require the Administrator of General Services to transfer certain surplus computers and technology equipment to nonprofit computer refurbishers for repair, distribution, and return, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Computers for Vet-
3 erans and Students Act of 2022” or the “COVS Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

5 Congress finds the following:

6 (1) Access to computers and computer tech-
7 nology is indispensable for success in the 21st cen-
8 tury. Millions of Americans do not regularly use a
9 computer and research shows that substantial dis-
10 parities remain in both internet use and the quality
11 of access with the digital divide concentrated among
12 older, less educated, less affluent populations, espe-
13 cially veterans, low-income students, and senior citi-
14 zens.

15 (2) The COVID–19 pandemic has highlighted
16 the gap between those with computer access and
17 those without. Millions of students, their families,
18 and workers from across the economy were unable to
19 do schoolwork, work remotely from home, or connect
20 to loved ones and their communities because of the
21 digital divide.

22 (3) Any Federal program that distributes sur-
23 plus Federal computers to a public school, an edu-
24 cational nonprofit, or a nonprofit computer refur-
25 bisher for repair and distribution would benefit from

1 a partnership with a nonprofit organization, whose
2 mission is bridging the digital divide.

3 **SEC. 3. REFURBISHMENT AND DISTRIBUTION OF SURPLUS**
4 **COMPUTERS AND TECHNOLOGY EQUIPMENT.**

5 (a) GSA TRANSFER.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after
7 State agencies for surplus property have been given
8 an opportunity to review surplus computer or tech-
9 nology equipment that has been determined to be re-
10 pairable, the Administrator shall transfer to partici-
11 pating nonprofit computer refurbishers such equip-
12 ment with full title to such equipment, for repair
13 and distribution in accordance with subsection
14 (c)(1).

15 (2) INFORMATION ON EQUIPMENT REFUR-
16 BISHED.—A nonprofit computer refurbisher that re-
17 ceives surplus computer or technology equipment
18 under this subsection shall provide the Adminis-
19 trator with any information the Administrator deter-
20 mines to be necessary for required reporting, includ-
21 ing information about the distribution of such equip-
22 ment.

23 (b) PARTNERSHIP.—The Administrator may estab-
24 lish a partnership with non-governmental entities, at no
25 cost, to—

1 (1) facilitate the identification of nonprofit com-
2 puter refurbishers and the distribution of surplus
3 computer or technology equipment under this sec-
4 tion; and

5 (2) facilitate the participation of nonprofit com-
6 puter refurbishers under this section.

7 (c) REPAIR AND DISTRIBUTION.—

8 (1) DISTRIBUTION TO BRIDGE THE DIGITAL DI-
9 VIDE.—A nonprofit computer refurbisher that re-
10 ceives equipment under subsection (a) shall repair
11 and distribute such equipment to an educational in-
12 stitution, a veteran, an individual with a disability,
13 a low-income individual, a student, or a senior in
14 need that is residing or based in the United States.

15 (2) TRAINING PROGRAMS.—Any nonprofit com-
16 puter refurbisher that receives any equipment under
17 subsection (a) shall offer training programs on the
18 use of computers and technology equipment for any
19 of the following:

20 (A) Educational institutions.

21 (B) Veterans.

22 (C) Individuals with disabilities.

23 (D) Low-income individuals.

24 (E) Students.

25 (F) Seniors.

1 (d) REPORTS REQUIRED.—Not later than 1 year
2 after the date of the enactment of this Act, and every 2
3 years thereafter for the next 4 years, the Administrator
4 shall submit to Congress a report on the efforts of the
5 Administrator under this Act.

6 (e) AGENCY REPORTS.—Not later than 5 years after
7 the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually there-
8 after, the head of each Federal agency shall make a report
9 available to the public on the number of repairable com-
10 puters that were sent to recycling, abandoned, or de-
11 stroyed.

12 (f) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this sec-
13 tion may be construed to supersede the requirements of
14 the Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation Act of 1980
15 (Public Law 96–480; 15 U.S.C. 3701 et seq.).

16 (g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

17 (1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term “Adminis-
18 trator” means the Administrator of General Serv-
19 ices.

20 (2) DIGITAL DIVIDE.—The term “digital di-
21 vide” means the gap between those who have an
22 internet-connected computer and the skills to use the
23 computer and those who do not.

24 (3) EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION.—The term
25 “educational institution” means—

1 (A) any public or private child care center,
2 preschool, elementary school, secondary school,
3 accredited institution of vocational or profes-
4 sional education, or institution of higher edu-
5 cation;

6 (B) in the case of an accredited institution
7 of vocational or professional education or an in-
8 stitution of higher education composed of more
9 than one school, college, or department that is
10 administratively a separate unit, each such
11 school, college, or department; and

12 (C) a home school (whether treated as a
13 home school or a private school for purposes of
14 applicable State law).

15 (4) FEDERAL AGENCY.—The term “Federal
16 agency” has the meaning given the term “federal
17 agency” in section 102 of title 40, United States
18 Code.

19 (5) DISABILITY.—The term “disability” has the
20 meaning given that term in section 3 of the Ameri-
21 cans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C.
22 12102).

23 (6) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The
24 term “institution of higher education” has the

1 meaning given that term in section 101 of the High-
2 er Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001).

3 (7) LOW-INCOME INDIVIDUALS.—The term “low
4 income individual” has the meaning given such term
5 in section 351 of the Small Business Investment Act
6 of 1958 (15 U.S.C. 689).

7 (8) NONPROFIT COMPUTER REFURBISHER.—
8 The term “nonprofit computer refurbisher” means a
9 nonprofit organization that primarily works to im-
10 prove access to information and communication
11 technology in their mission to bridge the digital di-
12 vide.

13 (9) NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION.—The term
14 “nonprofit organization” means an organization that
15 is described under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal
16 Revenue Code of 1986 and is exempt from taxation
17 under section 501(a) of such Code.

18 (10) REPAIRABLE.—The term “repairable”
19 means property that is unusable in its current state
20 but can be economically repaired.

21 (11) SECONDARY SCHOOL.—The term “sec-
22 ondary school” has the meaning given such term in
23 section 8101 of the Elementary and Secondary Edu-
24 cation Act of 1965.

1 (12) SENIOR.—The term “senior” means an in-
2 dividual who is 65 years of age or older.

3 (13) SENIOR IN NEED.—The term “senior in
4 need” means a senior who experiences cultural, so-
5 cial, or geographical isolation that—

6 (A) restricts the ability of the senior to
7 perform normal daily tasks; or

8 (B) threatens the capacity of the senior to
9 live independently.

10 (14) STATE AGENCY FOR SURPLUS PROP-
11 PERTY.—The term “State agency for surplus prop-
12 erty” has the meaning given the term “state agen-
13 cy” under section 549 of title 40, United States
14 Code.

15 (15) STUDENT.—The term “student” means
16 any individual enrolled in an educational institution,
17 but not a public or private child care center.

18 (16) SURPLUS COMPUTER OR TECHNOLOGY
19 EQUIPMENT.—The term “surplus computer or tech-
20 nology equipment” means computer or technology
21 equipment that is property described under section
22 549(b)(2) of title 40, United States Code.

23 (17) TECHNOLOGY EQUIPMENT.—The term
24 “technology equipment” means any physical asset
25 related to a computer or information technology, in-

1 including any peripheral component, tablet, commu-
2 nication device (such as a router, server, or cell
3 phone), printer, scanner, uninterruptible power
4 source, cable, or connection.

5 (18) VETERAN.—The term “veteran” has the
6 meaning given that term in section 101 of title 38,
7 United States Code.

8 (h) REGULATIONS.—The Administrator may issue
9 regulations that are necessary and appropriate to imple-
10 ment this section.

11 **SEC. 4. DETERMINATION OF BUDGETARY EFFECTS.**

12 The budgetary effects of this Act, for the purpose of
13 complying with the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010,
14 shall be determined by reference to the latest statement
15 titled “Budgetary Effects of PAYGO Legislation” for this
16 Act, submitted for printing in the Congressional Record
17 by the Chairman of the House Budget Committee, pro-
18 vided that such statement has been submitted prior to the
19 vote on passage.

Passed the House of Representatives July 12, 2022.

Attest: CHERYL L. JOHNSON,
Clerk.