

(5) at the time of application is not receiving similar services which are available and can be provided in a timely manner through another program.

(F) "QUALIFIED ENTITY" MEANS A NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION WHICH:

(I) PRODUCES AUDIO EDITIONS OF DAILY NEWSPAPERS, AVAILABLE FOR INTERSTATE DISTRIBUTION USING HIGH-SPEED COMPUTER AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY; AND

(II) PROVIDES A MEANS OF PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION AND READER REGISTRATION ON THE INTERNET.

[(e)] (G) "Specialized customer premises equipment" or "equipment" means any communications devices designed to assist program participants in using the basic telephone network.

[(f)] (H) "System" means the method which the Department shall use to provide financial assistance to eligible program participants for the purchase of the equipment.

3-902.

(a) The Department in consultation with the Board and the Governor's Office for Individuals with Disabilities shall establish and administer a program to assist eligible program participants to purchase specialized customer premises equipment AND FOR REIMBURSEMENT OF COSTS UNDER § 3-906 OF THIS SUBTITLE in accordance with § 3-807 of this title and the State budget.

3-906.

(A) THE DEPARTMENT IN CONSULTATION WITH THE BOARD AND THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES SHALL ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, DIVISION OF LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT AND SERVICES, PROVIDING FOR AN ANNUAL PAYMENT TO BE MADE TO THE DIVISION IN AN AMOUNT EQUAL TO THE COST INCURRED FOR THE DISTRIBUTION OF ACCESSIBLE INFORMATION.

(B) UNDER THE AGREEMENT THE DIVISION SHALL PROVIDE ELIGIBLE BLIND AND DISABLED INDIVIDUALS WITH ACCESS TO AN AUDIO NEWS AND INFORMATION SERVICE PRODUCED BY A QUALIFIED ENTITY.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2003.

May 22, 2003

The Honorable Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr.
President of the Senate
State House
Annapolis MD 21401

Dear Mr. President: