

Article 41 – Governor – Executive and Administrative Departments

Subtitle 5. Telecommunications [for Disabled Individuals] ACCESS OF MARYLAND

6-501.

(a) In this subtitle the following words have the meanings indicated.

(b) “Board” means the [Telecommunications for Disabled Individuals Board] GOVERNOR’S ADVISORY BOARD FOR TELECOMMUNICATIONS RELAY.

(c) “Dual party telephone [message] relay program” means a service whereby a PERSON USING A telecommunications device for the deaf communicates with an intermediary party who then verbally relays the first party’s message to the third party, and vice versa.

(d) “Program” means the dual party telephone [message] relay program [for disabled individuals].

(e) “Program participant” means a resident of the State, [certified, by a physician or audiologist, as deaf or hearing impaired, speech impaired, vision and speech impaired, or mobility impaired who needs a relay system to use the basic telephone network] WHETHER HEARING OR DEAF, WHO USES THE RELAY SYSTEM TO FACILITATE COMMUNICATION IN THE MANNER DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (C) OF THIS SECTION.

(f) “Telephone company” includes any public service company that owns telephone lines for the reception, transmission, or communication of messages by telephone or teletype, or that leases or sells telephonic or teletype communication equipment.

(g) “Telecommunications device for the deaf” or “TDD” means all types of mechanical devices that enable disabled individuals to type phone messages through the telephone network.

6-502.

There is a [Telecommunications for Disabled Individuals Board] GOVERNOR’S ADVISORY BOARD FOR TELECOMMUNICATIONS RELAY under the Department of [Human Resources] GENERAL SERVICES.

6-503.

The Department of [Human Resources] GENERAL SERVICES in consultation with the Board shall establish and administer a program to provide cost-efficient, 24-hour, dual party telephone [message] relay service to program participants AT A COMPARABLE LEVEL OF ACCESS AND QUALITY THAT A STANDARD TELECOMMUNICATION SERVICE PROVIDES TO A PERSON WITHOUT A HEARING OR SPEECH DISABILITY.