

## CHAPTER 387

H.B. No. 1843

## AN ACT

relating to the placement of print access aids in libraries for use by persons who are visually disabled.

*Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas:*

## SECTION 1. DEFINITIONS. In this Act:

(1) "Print access aid" means an item, piece or equipment, or product system that improves or facilitates access to standard print by enlarging or magnifying print, or by electronically converting print to spoken, recorded, or tactile format.

(2) "Public library" has the meaning assigned by Section 441.122, Government Code, and its subsequent amendments.

(3) "Standard print" means text that appears on paper, microfilm, microfiche, or other microformat, or in machine-readable form, in a type size smaller than 14 points.

(4) "State library" means the Texas State Library.

SECTION 2. PRINT ACCESS AIDS IN PUBLIC LIBRARIES. (a) A public library may, to make its services and collections more accessible, make a print access aid available for use by a person who cannot clearly read printed material because of a visual disability.

(b) If funds from gifts or grants are available for that purpose, the state library may acquire and lend at no cost print access aids to public libraries.

(c) To be eligible to receive a print access aid under Subsection (b) of this section, there must be a community need for the aid.

SECTION 3. TRAINING AND INFORMATION. The state library may provide to a library requesting or receiving a print access aid under this Act technical assistance, including assistance in:

- (1) explaining to library employees the function of a print access aid;
- (2) assessing local needs for use of a print access aid;
- (3) providing to library employees training and information in the use of a print access aid;
- (4) preparing and distributing public information regarding the availability and location of a print access aid; and
- (5) providing assistance in developing policies and guidelines for use of an aid.

SECTION 4. MAINTENANCE OF EQUIPMENT. The state library may pay the maintenance or repair cost of a print access aid supplied to a library under this Act out of funds available to the library from gifts or grants for that purpose. If the state library cannot pay the maintenance or repair cost of an aid, the library receiving the aid may pay the maintenance or repair cost or return the aid to the state library.

SECTION 5. RELOCATION. The state library shall review each library that receives a print access aid under this Act once every two years to determine whether to relocate an aid provided to that library. The state library shall make a relocation decision based on population shifts, the use of the equipment, and community need.

SECTION 6. FUNDING. (a) The requirements of this Act for the provision and placement of print access aids by the state library are contingent on the receipt of gifts or grants for the state library to purchase, maintain, and repair the print access aids. If the state library's funds are not sufficient to place and maintain a print access aid in a library that

may need an aid, the state library shall make a placement decision for any available aid based on demonstrated community need and local support provided by a library.

(b) Money from the general revenue fund may not be appropriated to implement this Act.

**SECTION 7. REPEAL.** Subchapter H, Chapter 441, Government Code, is repealed.

**SECTION 8. EFFECTIVE DATE.** This Act takes effect September 1, 1993.

**SECTION 9. EMERGENCY.** The importance of this legislation and the crowded condition of the calendars in both houses create an emergency and an imperative public necessity that the constitutional rule requiring bills to be read on three several days in each house be suspended, and this rule is hereby suspended.

Passed by the House on May 14, 1993, by a non-record vote; passed by the Senate on May 23, 1993, by a viva-voce vote.

Approved June 2, 1993.

Effective Sept. 1, 1993.