

## DEFINITIONS

For meaning of references to an intellectual disability and to individuals with intellectual disabilities in provisions amended by section 2 of Pub. L. 111-256, see section 2(k) of Pub. L. 111-256, set out as a note under section 1400 of this title.

**§ 1402. Office of Special Education Programs****(a) Establishment**

There shall be, within the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services in the Department of Education, an Office of Special Education Programs, which shall be the principal agency in the Department for administering and carrying out this chapter and other programs and activities concerning the education of children with disabilities.

**(b) Director**

The Office established under subsection (a) shall be headed by a Director who shall be selected by the Secretary and shall report directly to the Assistant Secretary for Special Education and Rehabilitative Services.

**(c) Voluntary and uncompensated services**

Notwithstanding section 1342 of title 31, the Secretary is authorized to accept voluntary and uncompensated services in furtherance of the purposes of this chapter.

(Pub. L. 91-230, title VI, § 603, as added Pub. L. 108-446, title I, § 101, Dec. 3, 2004, 118 Stat. 2659.)

## PRIOR PROVISIONS

A prior section 1402, Pub. L. 91-230, title VI, § 603, as added Pub. L. 105-17, title I, § 101, June 4, 1997, 111 Stat. 46, related to the Office of Special Education Programs, prior to the general amendment of subchapters I to IV of this chapter by Pub. L. 108-446.

Another prior section 1402, Pub. L. 91-230, title VI, § 603, Apr. 13, 1970, 84 Stat. 177; Pub. L. 93-380, title VI, § 612(a), Aug. 21, 1974, 88 Stat. 579; Pub. L. 98-199, § 3(a), Dec. 2, 1983, 97 Stat. 1357; Pub. L. 101-476, title IX, § 901(b)(21), Oct. 30, 1990, 104 Stat. 1143; Pub. L. 102-119, § 25(b), Oct. 7, 1991, 105 Stat. 607, related to the Office of Special Education Programs, prior to the general amendment of subchapters I to IV of this chapter by Pub. L. 105-17.

**§ 1403. Abrogation of State sovereign immunity****(a) In general**

A State shall not be immune under the 11th amendment to the Constitution of the United States from suit in Federal court for a violation of this chapter.

**(b) Remedies**

In a suit against a State for a violation of this chapter, remedies (including remedies both at law and in equity) are available for such a violation to the same extent as those remedies are available for such a violation in the suit against any public entity other than a State.

**(c) Effective date**

Subsections (a) and (b) apply with respect to violations that occur in whole or part after October 30, 1990.

(Pub. L. 91-230, title VI, § 604, as added Pub. L. 108-446, title I, § 101, Dec. 3, 2004, 118 Stat. 2659.)

## PRIOR PROVISIONS

A prior section 1403, Pub. L. 91-230, title VI, § 604, as added Pub. L. 105-17, title I, § 101, June 4, 1997, 111 Stat.

47, related to abrogation of State sovereign immunity, prior to the general amendment of subchapters I to IV of this chapter by Pub. L. 108-446.

Another prior section 1403, Pub. L. 91-230, title VI, § 604, as added Pub. L. 101-476, title I, § 103, Oct. 30, 1990, 104 Stat. 1106, related to abrogation of State sovereign immunity, prior to the general amendment of subchapters I to IV of this chapter by Pub. L. 105-17.

Another prior section 1403, Pub. L. 91-230, title VI, § 604, Apr. 13, 1970, 84 Stat. 177; Pub. L. 93-380, title VI, § 613, Aug. 21, 1974, 88 Stat. 580; Pub. L. 94-273, §§ 3(14), 13(2), Apr. 21, 1976, 90 Stat. 376, 378; Pub. L. 98-199, § 4, Dec. 2, 1983, 97 Stat. 1358, established the National Advisory Committee on the Education of Handicapped Children and Youth, prior to repeal by Pub. L. 99-457, title IV, § 407, Oct. 8, 1986, 100 Stat. 1177.

**§ 1404. Acquisition of equipment; construction or alteration of facilities****(a) In general**

If the Secretary determines that a program authorized under this chapter will be improved by permitting program funds to be used to acquire appropriate equipment, or to construct new facilities or alter existing facilities, the Secretary is authorized to allow the use of those funds for those purposes.

**(b) Compliance with certain regulations**

Any construction of new facilities or alteration of existing facilities under subsection (a) shall comply with the requirements of—

(1) appendix A of part 36 of title 28, Code of Federal Regulations (commonly known as the “Americans with Disabilities Accessibility Guidelines for Buildings and Facilities”); or

(2) appendix A of subpart 101-19.6 of title 41, Code of Federal Regulations (commonly known as the “Uniform Federal Accessibility Standards”).

(Pub. L. 91-230, title VI, § 605, as added Pub. L. 108-446, title I, § 101, Dec. 3, 2004, 118 Stat. 2659.)

## PRIOR PROVISIONS

A prior section 1404, Pub. L. 91-230, title VI, § 605, as added Pub. L. 105-17, title I, § 101, June 4, 1997, 111 Stat. 47, related to the acquisition of equipment and construction or alteration of facilities, prior to the general amendment of subchapters I to IV of this chapter by Pub. L. 108-446.

Another prior section 1404, Pub. L. 91-230, title VI, § 605, Apr. 13, 1970, 84 Stat. 177; Pub. L. 98-199, § 3(b), Dec. 2, 1983, 97 Stat. 1358; Pub. L. 100-630, title I, § 101(b), Nov. 7, 1988, 102 Stat. 3290; Pub. L. 102-119, § 25(a)(2), Oct. 7, 1991, 105 Stat. 605, related to acquisition of equipment and construction of necessary facilities, prior to the general amendment of subchapters I to IV of this chapter by Pub. L. 105-17.

**§ 1405. Employment of individuals with disabilities**

The Secretary shall ensure that each recipient of assistance under this chapter makes positive efforts to employ and advance in employment qualified individuals with disabilities in programs assisted under this chapter.

(Pub. L. 91-230, title VI, § 606, as added Pub. L. 108-446, title I, § 101, Dec. 3, 2004, 118 Stat. 2659.)

## PRIOR PROVISIONS

A prior section 1405, Pub. L. 91-230, title VI, § 606, as added Pub. L. 105-17, title I, § 101, June 4, 1997, 111 Stat. 47, related to employment of individuals with disabili-

ities by recipients of assistance under this chapter, prior to the general amendment of subchapters I to IV of this chapter by Pub. L. 108-446.

Another prior section 1405, Pub. L. 91-230, title VI, § 606, as added Pub. L. 94-142, § 6(a), Nov. 29, 1975, 89 Stat. 795; amended Pub. L. 101-476, title IX, § 901(b)(22), (23), Oct. 30, 1990, 104 Stat. 1143; Pub. L. 102-119, § 25(b), Oct. 7, 1991, 105 Stat. 607, related to employment of individuals with disabilities by recipients of assistance under this chapter, prior to the general amendment of subchapters I to IV of this chapter by Pub. L. 105-17.

#### § 1406. Requirements for prescribing regulations

##### (a) In general

In carrying out the provisions of this chapter, the Secretary shall issue regulations under this chapter only to the extent that such regulations are necessary to ensure that there is compliance with the specific requirements of this chapter.

##### (b) Protections provided to children

The Secretary may not implement, or publish in final form, any regulation prescribed pursuant to this chapter that—

(1) violates or contradicts any provision of this chapter; or

(2) procedurally or substantively lessens the protections provided to children with disabilities under this chapter, as embodied in regulations in effect on July 20, 1983 (particularly as such protections related to parental consent to initial evaluation or initial placement in special education, least restrictive environment, related services, timelines, attendance of evaluation personnel at individualized education program meetings, or qualifications of personnel), except to the extent that such regulation reflects the clear and unequivocal intent of Congress in legislation.

##### (c) Public comment period

The Secretary shall provide a public comment period of not less than 75 days on any regulation proposed under subchapter II or subchapter III on which an opportunity for public comment is otherwise required by law.

##### (d) Policy letters and statements

The Secretary may not issue policy letters or other statements (including letters or statements regarding issues of national significance) that—

(1) violate or contradict any provision of this chapter; or

(2) establish a rule that is required for compliance with, and eligibility under, this chapter without following the requirements of section 553 of title 5.

##### (e) Explanation and assurances

Any written response by the Secretary under subsection (d) regarding a policy, question, or interpretation under subchapter II shall include an explanation in the written response that—

(1) such response is provided as informal guidance and is not legally binding;

(2) when required, such response is issued in compliance with the requirements of section 553 of title 5; and

(3) such response represents the interpretation by the Department of Education of the applicable statutory or regulatory requirements in the context of the specific facts presented.

#### (f) Correspondence from Department of Education describing interpretations of this chapter

##### (1) In general

The Secretary shall, on a quarterly basis, publish in the Federal Register, and widely disseminate to interested entities through various additional forms of communication, a list of correspondence from the Department of Education received by individuals during the previous quarter that describes the interpretations of the Department of Education of this chapter or the regulations implemented pursuant to this chapter.

##### (2) Additional information

For each item of correspondence published in a list under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall—

(A) identify the topic addressed by the correspondence and shall include such other summary information as the Secretary determines to be appropriate; and

(B) ensure that all such correspondence is issued, where applicable, in compliance with the requirements of section 553 of title 5.

(Pub. L. 91-230, title VI, § 607, as added Pub. L. 108-446, title I, § 101, Dec. 3, 2004, 118 Stat. 2659.)

#### PRIOR PROVISIONS

A prior section 1406, Pub. L. 91-230, title VI, § 607, as added Pub. L. 105-17, title I, § 101, June 4, 1997, 111 Stat. 47, related to requirements for prescribing regulations, prior to the general amendment of subchapters I to IV of this chapter by Pub. L. 108-446.

Another section 1406, Pub. L. 91-230, title VI, § 607, as added Pub. L. 94-142, § 6(a), Nov. 29, 1975, 89 Stat. 795; amended Pub. L. 98-199, §§ 3(b), 5, Dec. 2, 1983, 97 Stat. 1358; Pub. L. 99-457, title IV, § 401, Oct. 8, 1986, 100 Stat. 1172; Pub. L. 100-630, title I, § 101(c), Nov. 7, 1988, 102 Stat. 3290, related to grants for removal of architectural barriers, prior to the general amendment of subchapters I to IV of this chapter by Pub. L. 105-17.

#### § 1407. State administration

##### (a) Rulemaking

Each State that receives funds under this chapter shall—

(1) ensure that any State rules, regulations, and policies relating to this chapter conform to the purposes of this chapter;

(2) identify in writing to local educational agencies located in the State and the Secretary any such rule, regulation, or policy as a State-imposed requirement that is not required by this chapter and Federal regulations; and

(3) minimize the number of rules, regulations, and policies to which the local educational agencies and schools located in the State are subject under this chapter.

##### (b) Support and facilitation

State rules, regulations, and policies under this chapter shall support and facilitate local educational agency and school-level system improvement designed to enable children with disabilities to meet the challenging State student academic achievement standards.

(Pub. L. 91-230, title VI, § 608, as added Pub. L. 108-446, title I, § 101, Dec. 3, 2004, 118 Stat. 2661.)