

By Senator Thurston

33-01152-17

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1                   A bill to be entitled  
2       An act relating to the Assistive Technology Advisory  
3       Council; amending s. 413.407, F.S.; requiring a  
4       representative of the Department of Economic  
5       Opportunity, rather than of CareerSource Florida,  
6       Inc., to serve on the council; deleting a requirement  
7       that the council act as the board of directors of the  
8       Florida Alliance for Assistive Services and  
9       Technology; requiring the council to advise the  
10      alliance; providing an effective date.

11  
12 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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14       Section 1. Paragraph (a) of subsection (1) and paragraph  
15      (a) of subsection (2) of section 413.407, Florida Statutes, are  
16      amended to read:

17       413.407 Assistive Technology Advisory Council.—There is  
18      created the Assistive Technology Advisory Council, responsible  
19      for ensuring consumer involvement in the creation, application,  
20      and distribution of technology-related assistance to and for  
21      persons who have disabilities. The council shall fulfill its  
22      responsibilities through statewide policy development, both  
23      state and federal legislative initiatives, advocacy at both the  
24      state and federal level, planning of statewide resource  
25      allocations, policy-level management, reviews of both consumer  
26      responsiveness and the adequacy of program service delivery, and  
27      by performing the functions listed in this section.

28       (1) (a) The council shall be composed of:

29       1. Individuals who have disabilities and who are assistive

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30 technology consumers or family members or guardians of those  
31 individuals.

32 2. Representatives of consumer organizations concerned with  
33 assistive technology.

34 3. Representatives of business and industry, including the  
35 insurance industry, concerned with assistive technology.

36 4. A representative of the Division of Vocational  
37 Rehabilitation.

38 5. A representative of the Division of Blind Services.

39 6. A representative of the Florida Independent Living  
40 Council.

41 7. A representative of the Department of Economic  
42 Opportunity CareerSource Florida, Inc.

43 8. A representative of the Department of Education.

44 9. Representatives of other state agencies that provide or  
45 coordinate services for persons with disabilities.

46  
47 Total membership on the council may not exceed 27 at any one  
48 time. A majority of the members shall be appointed in accordance  
49 with subparagraph 1.

50 (2) In addition to the other functions specified in this  
51 section, the council shall:

52 (a) Advise the Florida ~~Act as the board of directors of a~~  
53 ~~not-for-profit corporation created by the division. Through the~~  
54 ~~corporation, the council shall provide direction to Florida's~~  
55 Alliance for Assistive Services and Technology, administered  
56 through the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation within the  
57 Florida Department of Education ~~a project sponsored by the~~  
58 ~~department for the coordination and delivery of appropriate,~~

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59 ~~cost effective, state of the art assistive technology services~~  
60 ~~and devices.~~

61 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2017.