

By Senator Rouson

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1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to assistive technology devices;
3 amending s. 1003.575, F.S.; revising provisions
4 relating to the accessibility and use of assistive
5 technology devices by persons with disabilities;
6 providing an effective date.

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8 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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10 Section 1. Section 1003.575, Florida Statutes, is amended
11 to read:

12 1003.575 Assistive technology devices; findings;
13 interagency agreements.—Accessibility, utilization, and
14 coordination of appropriate assistive technology devices and
15 services are essential as a young person with disabilities moves
16 from early intervention to preschool, from preschool to school,
17 from one school to another, ~~and~~ from school to employment or
18 independent living, and from school to home and community. If an
19 individual education plan team makes a recommendation in
20 accordance with State Board of Education rule for a student with
21 a disability, as defined in s. 1003.01(3), to receive an
22 assistive technology assessment, that assessment must be
23 completed within 60 school days after the team's recommendation.
24 To ensure that an assistive technology device issued to a young
25 person as part of his or her individualized family support plan,
26 individual support plan, individual work plan, or ~~an~~ individual
27 education plan remains with the individual through such
28 transitions, the following agencies shall enter into interagency
29 agreements, as appropriate, to ensure the transaction of
30 assistive technology devices:

31 (1) The Early Steps Program in the Division of Children's
32 Medical Services of the Department of Health.

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33 (2) The Division of Blind Services, the Bureau of
34 Exceptional Education and Student Services, the Office of
35 Independent Education and Parental Choice, and the Division of
36 Vocational Rehabilitation of the Department of Education.

37 (3) The Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program
38 administered by the Department of Education and the Office of
39 Early Learning.

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41 Interagency agreements entered into pursuant to this section
42 shall provide a framework for ensuring that young persons with
43 disabilities and their families, educators, and employers are
44 informed about the utilization and coordination of assistive
45 technology devices and services that may assist in meeting
46 transition needs, and shall establish a mechanism by which a
47 young person or his or her parent may request that an assistive
48 technology device remain with the young person as he or she
49 moves through the continuum from home to school to postschool.

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