

109TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

S. 2918

To provide access to newspapers for blind or other persons with disabilities.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 19, 2006

Mr. DODD (for himself and Mr. LOTT) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration

A BILL

To provide access to newspapers for blind or other persons with disabilities.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Free Newspaper Ac-
5 cess for Blind and Other Persons with Disabilities Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. AUTHORIZATION OF PROGRAM.**

7 (a) PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.—

8 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Librarian of Congress
9 is authorized, subject to the availability of appro-
10 priations, to pay telecommunications costs for blind
11 and other persons with disabilities to have interstate

1 free access to electronic editions of periodicals and
2 newspapers, disseminated in specialized audio and
3 electronic text formats and available contempora-
4 neously with their print editions, from a multi-State
5 nonprofit source described in paragraph (2).

6 (2) MULTI-STATE NONPROFIT SOURCE.—The
7 multi-State nonprofit source referred to in para-
8 graph (1) shall be an entity that obtains content
9 from publishers for free distribution of 1 or more
10 periodicals or newspapers to blind and other persons
11 with disabilities in each State in which eligible per-
12 sons receive books and other publications supplied
13 by the Librarian of Congress under the Act entitled
14 “An Act to provide books for the adult blind”, ap-
15 proved March 3, 1931 (2 U.S.C. 135a).

16 (b) DEFINITION OF BLIND AND OTHER PERSONS
17 WITH DISABILITIES.—In this section, the term “blind and
18 other persons with disabilities” means individuals who are
19 eligible or who may qualify, in accordance with the Act
20 entitled “An Act to provide books for the adult blind”,
21 approved March 3, 1931 (2 U.S.C. 135a), to receive books
22 and other publications produced in specialized formats.

23 **SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

24 There are authorized to be appropriated to the Li-
25 brary of Congress to carry out this Act \$750,000 for fiscal

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1 year 2007 and such sums as may be necessary for each
2 of the fiscal years 2008 through 2011.

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