



102ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2021 and 2022

SB0601

Introduced 2/24/2021, by Sen. Dale Fowler

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

New Act

Creates the Technology First Act. Creates the Technology First Council within the Department of Human Services to advise the Governor and the General Assembly regarding the use of supportive technology, instead of direct support staffing, as a solution for an individual who needs developmental disability services. Provides that the Council shall consist of the Secretary of Human Services and other members appointed by the Secretary, including one member who is a representative of the Illinois Council on Developmental Disabilities; one member who is a representative of the Illinois Assistive Technology Program; one member who is the parent or guardian of a child with a developmental disability and who has significant experience with the use of supportive technology; and 2 members representing service providers who have significant experience using supportive technology to provide services to individuals with developmental disabilities. Provides that members shall serve without compensation. Requires the Council to make recommendations to develop State policy to encourage the use of supportive technology; identify and address areas in which sufficient support is not currently available or where additional options may be needed to assist individuals with developmental disabilities to gain access to supportive technology; develop educational materials for providers, families, and others about how supportive technology can have a positive impact on the independence, skills, and abilities of individuals with developmental disabilities; and other duties. Requires the Council to submit a report to the Governor and the General Assembly with its recommendations for the use of supportive technology for services to individuals with developmental disabilities.

LRB102 15469 KTG 20832 b

FISCAL NOTE ACT
MAY APPLY

A BILL FOR

1 AN ACT concerning human services.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 1. Short title. This Act may be cited as the
5 Technology First Act.

6 Section 5. Findings. The General Assembly finds:

7 (1) Many individuals with developmental disabilities
8 encounter obstacles in their lives that can be overcome
9 with technology.

10 (2) Innovative supportive technology positively
11 impacts the lives of individuals with developmental
12 disabilities at home and in our communities.

13 (3) With continuing technological advancements,
14 individuals with developmental disabilities increasingly
15 have more opportunities to access innovative supportive
16 technology that lowers barriers that people with
17 disabilities encounter in their daily lives and that
18 promotes their independence, confidence, and abilities.

19 (4) Supportive technology in the workplace can enable
20 individuals with developmental disabilities to perform job
21 tasks in order to seek or maintain employment to achieve
22 independence.

23 (5) The demand for direct support staff who assist

1 individuals with developmental disabilities is projected
2 to increase and technology can assist those who do the
3 important work of caring for individuals with
4 disabilities.

5 (6) While human relationships are an essential part of
6 all our lives, supportive technology can connect
7 individuals with developmental disabilities with
8 additional assistance to supplement and enhance the care
9 that they receive.

10 (7) Illinois aims to ensure supportive technology
11 solutions are considered when determining the appropriate
12 services and supports to be provided for individuals with
13 developmental disabilities.

14 (8) Illinois commits to a statewide initiative,
15 Technology First, led by the Department of Human Services,
16 to coordinate efforts to expand access to supportive
17 technology designed to improve the lives of individuals
18 with developmental disabilities.

19 (9) Through its Technology First initiative, Illinois
20 is committed to the goal that individuals with
21 developmental disabilities be afforded the opportunity to
22 improve their lives through supportive technology.

23 Section 10. Definitions. As used in this Act:

24 "Council" means the Technology First Council.

25 "Department" means the Department of Human Services.

1 "Secretary" means the Secretary of Human Services.

2 "Supportive technology" includes any product, device, or
3 equipment that may be used to maintain, increase, or improve
4 the functional capabilities of individuals with disabilities.

5 Section 15. Technology First Council.

6 (a) The Technology First Council is created within the
7 Department of Human Services to advise the Governor and the
8 General Assembly regarding the use of supportive technology,
9 instead of direct support staffing, as a solution for an
10 individual who needs developmental disability services. The
11 Council shall consist of the Secretary of Human Services or
12 the Secretary's designee and the following members, who shall
13 be appointed by the Secretary:

14 (1) one member who is a representative of the Illinois
15 Council on Developmental Disabilities;

16 (2) one member who is a representative of the Illinois
17 Assistive Technology Program;

18 (3) one member who is a representative of an
19 intellectual or developmental disability advocacy
20 organization;

21 (4) one member who is familiar with supportive
22 technology research and who represents an Illinois
23 institution of higher education;

24 (5) two members representing service providers who
25 have significant experience using supportive technology to

1 provide services to individuals with developmental
2 disabilities;

3 (6) one member who is the parent or guardian of a child
4 with a developmental disability and who has significant
5 experience with the use of supportive technology;

6 (7) one member who is an individual with a
7 developmental disability and has significant experience
8 with the use of supportive technology; and

9 (8) other members as the Secretary deems appropriate.

10 (b) Council members shall serve without compensation but
11 may be reimbursed for their travel expenses. The Department
12 shall provide administrative and other support to the Council.
13 The Secretary or the Secretary's designee shall serve as the
14 chair of the Council.

15 (c) All State agencies shall comply with requests issued
16 by the Council, subject to the supervision of their agency
17 heads.

18 (d) Supportive technology that is intended to address an
19 individual's assessed needs shall be prioritized when
20 considering services and support needs.

21 (e) In the 6 months following the effective date of this
22 Act, the Council shall:

23 (1) make recommendations to develop State policy to
24 encourage the use of supportive technology;

25 (2) identify and address areas in which sufficient
26 support is not currently available or where additional

1 options may be needed to assist individuals with
2 developmental disabilities to gain access to supportive
3 technology;

4 (3) identify best practices, effective partnerships,
5 and opportunities for shared services among providers,
6 State agencies, and units of local government to increase
7 supportive technology opportunities for individuals with
8 developmental disabilities;

9 (4) recommend ways to integrate supportive technology
10 into existing programs to move with children as they grow
11 into adulthood, with a focus on transition-age youth;

12 (5) develop educational materials for providers,
13 families, and others about how supportive technology can
14 have a positive impact on the independence, skills, and
15 abilities of individuals with developmental disabilities;

16 (6) recommend system-level benchmarks for monitoring
17 use of supportive technology and person-centered outcomes
18 that demonstrate increased quality of life for individuals
19 with developmental disabilities; and

20 (7) submit to the Governor and the General Assembly a
21 report setting forth recommendations for the use of
22 supportive technology for services to individuals with
23 developmental disabilities.