



President Harry S. Truman Presents the Official Insignia of the Blinded Veterans Association, Inc., to the Executives of the Organization, 04/12/1948

<http://research.archives.gov/description/6087938>

FDR and living with a disability

<http://www.fdrlibrary.marist.edu/aboutfdr/polio.html>

JFK and People with Intellectual Disabilities

<http://www.jfklibrary.org/JFK/JFK-in-History/JFK-and-People-with-Intellectual-Disabilities.aspx>

George Bush Library and ADA

<http://bushlibrary.tamu.edu/features/2010-ada/>

National Archives

<http://www.archives.gov/research/americans-with-disabilities/>



<http://bushlibrary.tamu.edu/features/2010-ada/>

- President George H.W. Bush signs the Americans with Disabilities Act at the White House on July 26, 1990

One Hundred First Congress of the United States of America

AT THE SECOND SESSION

*Begun and held at the City of Washington on Tuesday, the twenty-third day of January,
one thousand nine hundred and ninety*

An Act

To establish a clear and comprehensive prohibition of discrimination on the basis of disability.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This Act may be cited as the “Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990”.

(b) **TABLE OF CONTENTS.**—The table of contents is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
Sec. 2. Findings and purposes.
Sec. 3. Definitions.

TITLE I—EMPLOYMENT

Sec. 101. Definitions.
Sec. 102. Discrimination.
Sec. 103. Defenses.
Sec. 104. Illegal use of drugs and alcohol.
Sec. 105. Posting notices.
Sec. 106. Regulations.
Sec. 107. Enforcement.
Sec. 108. Effective date.

TITLE II—PUBLIC SERVICES

Subtitle A—Prohibition Against Discrimination and Other Generally Applicable Provisions

Sec. 201. Definition.
Sec. 202. Discrimination.
Sec. 203. Enforcement.
Sec. 204. Regulations.
Sec. 205. Effective date.

Subtitle B—Actions Applicable to Public Transportation Provided by Public Entities Considered Discriminatory

PART I—PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION OTHER THAN BY AIRCRAFT OR CERTAIN RAIL OPERATIONS

Sec. 221. Definitions.
Sec. 222. Public entities operating fixed route systems.
Sec. 223. Paratransit as a complement to fixed route service.
Sec. 224. Public entity operating a demand responsive system.
Sec. 225. Temporary relief where lifts are unavailable.
Sec. 226. New facilities.
Sec. 227. Alterations of existing facilities.
Sec. 228. Public transportation programs and activities in existing facilities and one car per train rule.
Sec. 229. Regulations.
Sec. 230. Interim accessibility requirements.
Sec. 231. Effective date.

PART II—PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION BY INTERCITY AND COMMUTER RAIL

Sec. 241. Definitions.
Sec. 242. Intercity and commuter rail actions considered discriminatory.
Sec. 243. Conformance of accessibility standards.

<http://ourpresidents.tumblr.com/post/56513893119/the-americans-with-disabilities-act-today-in>

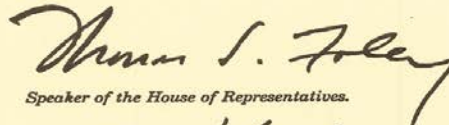
- On July 26, 1990, President George Bush signed the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

S. 933—52

and arbitration, is encouraged to resolve disputes arising under this Act.

SEC. 514. SEVERABILITY.

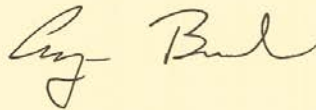
Should any provision in this Act be found to be unconstitutional by a court of law, such provision shall be severed from the remainder of the Act, and such action shall not affect the enforceability of the remaining provisions of the Act.


Thomas S. Foley
Speaker of the House of Representatives.


Tom Harkin
Vice President of the United States and
Acting President of the Senate, pro tempore

APPROVED

JUL 26 1990


George Bush

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- On July 26, 1990, President George Bush signed the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

July 26, 1990

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

Today, I am signing S. 933, the "Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990." In this extraordinary year, we have seen our own Declaration of Independence inspire the march of freedom throughout Eastern Europe. It is altogether fitting that the American people have once again given clear expression to our most basic ideals of freedom and equality. The Americans with Disabilities Act represents the full flowering of our democratic principles, and it gives me great pleasure to sign it into law today.

In 1986, on behalf of President Reagan, I personally accepted a report from the National Council on Disability entitled "Toward Independence." In that report, the National Council recommended the enactment of comprehensive legislation to ban discrimination against persons with disabilities. The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is such legislation. It promises to open up all aspects of American life to individuals with disabilities -- employment opportunities, government services, public accommodations, transportation, and telecommunications.

This legislation is comprehensive because the barriers faced by individuals with disabilities are wide-ranging. Existing laws and regulations under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 have been effective with respect to the Federal Government, its contractors, and the recipients of Federal funds. However, they have left broad areas of American life untouched or inadequately addressed. Many of our young people, who have benefited from the equal educational opportunity guaranteed under the Rehabilitation Act and the Education of the Handicapped Act, have found themselves on graduation day still shut out of the mainstream of American life. They have faced persistent discrimination in the workplace and barriers posed by inaccessible public transportation, public accommodations, and telecommunications.

Fears that the ADA is too vague or too costly and will lead to an explosion of litigation are misplaced. The Administration worked closely with the Congress to ensure that, wherever possible, existing language and standards from the Rehabilitation Act were incorporated into the ADA. The Rehabilitation Act standards are already familiar to large segments of the private sector that are either Federal contractors or recipients of Federal funds. Because the Rehabilitation Act was enacted 17 years ago, there is already an extensive body of law interpreting the requirements of that Act. Employers can turn to these interpretations for guidance on how to meet their obligations under the ADA.

The Administration and the Congress have carefully crafted the ADA to give the business community the flexibility to meet the requirements of the Act without incurring undue costs. Cost may be taken into account in determining how an employee is "reasonably accommodated," whether the removal of a barrier is "readily achievable," or whether the provision of a particular auxiliary aid would result in an "undue burden." The ADA's most

more

(OVER)

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- President George H W Bush's speech on July 26, 1990

rigorous access requirements are reserved for new construction where the added costs of accessible features are minimal in relation to overall construction costs. An elevator exemption is provided for many buildings.

The careful balance struck between the rights of individuals with disabilities and the legitimate interests of business is shown in the various phase-in provisions in the ADA. For example, the employment provisions take effect 2 years from today for employers of 25 or more employees. Four years from today that coverage will be extended to employers with 15-24 employees. These phase-in periods and effective dates will permit adequate time for businesses to become acquainted with the ADA's requirements and to take the necessary steps to achieve compliance.

The ADA recognizes the necessity of educating the public about its rights and responsibilities under the Act. Under the ADA, the Attorney General will oversee Government-wide technical assistance activities. The Department of Justice will consult with the Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, the Department of Transportation, the Federal Communications Commission, the National Council on Disability, and the President's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities, among others, in the effort. We will involve trade associations, advocacy groups, and other similar organizations that have existing lines of communications with covered entities and persons with disabilities. The participation of these organizations is a key element in assuring the success of the technical assistance effort.

In signing this landmark bill, I pledge the full support of my Administration for the Americans with Disabilities Act. It is a great honor to preside over the implementation of the responsibilities conferred on the executive branch by this Act. I pledge that we will fulfill those responsibilities efficiently and vigorously.

The Americans with Disabilities Act presents us all with an historic opportunity. It signals the end to the unjustified segregation and exclusion of persons with disabilities from the mainstream of American life. As the Declaration of Independence has been a beacon for people all over the world seeking freedom, it is my hope that the Americans with Disabilities Act will likewise come to be a model for the choices and opportunities of future generations around the world.

GEORGE BUSH

THE WHITE HOUSE,
July 26, 1990.

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- President George H W Bush's speech on July 26, 1990



<http://stevenarodriguez.com/blog/>

- Americans with Disabilities Act Logo



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THE MOST APPROPRIATE LABEL IS
USUALLY THE ONE PEOPLE'S PARENTS
HAVE GIVEN THEM.

<http://anthonyadornato.com/disability-and-diversity/>

- Political Cartoon about appropriate labels

AFTER THE PASSAGE OF THE ADA

DESIGNED BY JESSICA THURBER

1991

President Bush signs the Decoder Circuitry Act requiring all TVs 13" or larger to have built in captioning after July 1993.

1995

Heather Whitestone becomes the first deaf woman to be crowned Miss America.

1997

The World Federation for the Deaf and Blind is founded.

1998

WyndTell, launched in February 1998, allows people who are deaf or hard of hearing to communicate wirelessly for the first time via text telephone (TTY), e-mail, fax, alphanumeric page and even by voice.

1999

Newborn Infant Hearing Screening and Intervention Act becomes law and becomes the basis for the Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) Program.

2000

Video Relay Service (VRS) officially becomes available throughout the State of Texas.

2002

FCC allows for the reimbursement of interstate VRS providers via an interstate TRS fund administration, making the United States the second country after Sweden to federally subsidize VRS nationwide.

2006

FCC's rules require that video program distributors add closed captioning to all new English language programming.

2007

The Coalition of Organizations for Accessible Telecommunications (COAT), a group of disability organizations, is launched.

<http://blog.deafpolitics.org/2010/12/what-happened-after-passage-of-ada.html>

- A timeline of ADA after the passage of the ADA Act