

Suspend the Rules and Pass the Bill, H.R. 3544, With an Amendment

(The amendment strikes all after the enacting clause and inserts a new text)

117TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 3544

To require the Administrator of General Services to transfer certain surplus computers and technology equipment to nonprofit computer refurbishers for repair, distribution, and return, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 25, 2021

Ms. SPANBERGER (for herself, Mr. WITTMAN, and Mrs. LURIA) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Reform

A BILL

To require the Administrator of General Services to transfer certain surplus computers and technology equipment to nonprofit computer refurbishers for repair, distribution, and return, and for other purposes.

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 “Computers for Vet-
5 erans and Students Act of 2022” or the “COVS Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 Congress finds the following:

3 (1) Access to computers and computer tech-
4 nology is indispensable for success in the 21st cen-
5 tury. Millions of Americans do not regularly use a
6 computer and research shows that substantial dis-
7 parities remain in both internet use and the quality
8 of access with the digital divide concentrated among
9 older, less educated, less affluent populations, espe-
10 cially veterans, low-income students, and senior citi-
11 zens.

12 (2) The COVID–19 pandemic has highlighted
13 the gap between those with computer access and
14 those without. Millions of students, their families,
15 and workers from across the economy were unable to
16 do schoolwork, work remotely from home, or connect
17 to loved ones and their communities because of the
18 digital divide.

19 (3) Any Federal program that distributes sur-
20 plus Federal computers to a public school, an edu-
21 cational nonprofit, or a nonprofit computer refur-
22 bishier for repair and distribution would benefit from
23 a partnership with a nonprofit organization, whose
24 mission is bridging the digital divide.

1 **SEC. 3. REFURBISHMENT AND DISTRIBUTION OF SURPLUS**
2 **COMPUTERS AND TECHNOLOGY EQUIPMENT.**

3 (a) GSA TRANSFER.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after
5 State agencies for surplus property have been given
6 an opportunity to review surplus computer or tech-
7 nology equipment that has been determined to be re-
8 pairable, the Administrator shall transfer to partici-
9 pating nonprofit computer refurbishers such equip-
10 ment with full title to such equipment, for repair
11 and distribution in accordance with subsection
12 (c)(1).

13 (2) INFORMATION ON EQUIPMENT REFUR-
14 BISHED.—A nonprofit computer refurbisher that re-
15 ceives surplus computer or technology equipment
16 under this subsection shall provide the Adminis-
17 trator with any information the Administrator deter-
18 mines to be necessary for required reporting, includ-
19 ing information about the distribution of such equip-
20 ment.

21 (b) PARTNERSHIP.—The Administrator may estab-
22 lish a partnership with non-governmental entities, at no
23 cost, to—

24 (1) facilitate the identification of nonprofit com-
25 puter refurbishers and the distribution of surplus

1 computer or technology equipment under this sec-
2 tion; and

3 (2) facilitate the participation of nonprofit com-
4 puter refurbishers under this section.

5 (c) REPAIR AND DISTRIBUTION.—

6 (1) DISTRIBUTION TO BRIDGE THE DIGITAL DI-
7 VIDE.—A nonprofit computer refurbisher that re-
8 ceives equipment under subsection (a) shall repair
9 and distribute such equipment to an educational in-
10 stitution, a veteran, an individual with a disability,
11 a low-income individual, a student, or a senior in
12 need that is residing or based in the United States.

13 (2) TRAINING PROGRAMS.—Any nonprofit com-
14 puter refurbisher that receives any equipment under
15 subsection (a) shall offer training programs on the
16 use of computers and technology equipment for any
17 of the following:

18 (A) Educational institutions.

19 (B) Veterans.

20 (C) Individuals with disabilities.

21 (D) Low-income individuals.

22 (E) Students.

23 (F) Seniors.

24 (d) REPORTS REQUIRED.—Not later than 1 year
25 after the date of the enactment of this Act, and every 2

1 years thereafter for the next 4 years, the Administrator
2 shall submit to Congress a report on the efforts of the
3 Administrator under this Act.

4 (e) AGENCY REPORTS.—Not later than 5 years after
5 the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually there-
6 after, the head of each Federal agency shall make a report
7 available to the public on the number of repairable com-
8 puters that were sent to recycling, abandoned, or de-
9 stroyed.

10 (f) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this sec-
11 tion may be construed to supersede the requirements of
12 the Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation Act of 1980
13 (Public Law 96–480; 15 U.S.C. 3701 et seq.).

14 (g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

15 (1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term “Adminis-
16 trator” means the Administrator of General Serv-
17 ices.

18 (2) DIGITAL DIVIDE.—The term “digital di-
19 vide” means the gap between those who have an
20 internet-connected computer and the skills to use the
21 computer and those who do not.

22 (3) EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION.—The term
23 “educational institution” means—

24 (A) any public or private child care center,
25 preschool, elementary school, secondary school,

1 accredited institution of vocational or profes-
2 sional education, or institution of higher edu-
3 cation;

4 (B) in the case of an accredited institution
5 of vocational or professional education or an in-
6 stitution of higher education composed of more
7 than one school, college, or department that is
8 administratively a separate unit, each such
9 school, college, or department; and

10 (C) a home school (whether treated as a
11 home school or a private school for purposes of
12 applicable State law).

13 (4) FEDERAL AGENCY.—The term “Federal
14 agency” has the meaning given the term “federal
15 agency” in section 102 of title 40, United States
16 Code.

17 (5) DISABILITY.—The term “disability” has the
18 meaning given that term in section 3 of the Ameri-
19 cans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C.
20 12102).

21 (6) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The
22 term “institution of higher education” has the
23 meaning given that term in section 101 of the High-
24 er Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001).

1 (7) LOW-INCOME INDIVIDUALS.—The term “low
2 income individual” has the meaning given such term
3 in section 351 of the Small Business Investment Act
4 of 1958 (15 U.S.C. 689).

5 (8) NONPROFIT COMPUTER REFURBISHER.—
6 The term “nonprofit computer refurbisher” means a
7 nonprofit organization that primarily works to im-
8 prove access to information and communication
9 technology in their mission to bridge the digital di-
10 vide.

11 (9) NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION.—The term
12 “nonprofit organization” means an organization that
13 is described under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal
14 Revenue Code of 1986 and is exempt from taxation
15 under section 501(a) of such Code.

16 (10) REPAIRABLE.—The term “repairable”
17 means property that is unusable in its current state
18 but can be economically repaired.

19 (11) SECONDARY SCHOOL.—The term “sec-
20 ondary school” has the meaning given such term in
21 section 8101 of the Elementary and Secondary Edu-
22 cation Act of 1965.

23 (12) SENIOR.—The term “senior” means an in-
24 dividual who is 65 years of age or older.

1 (13) SENIOR IN NEED.—The term “senior in
2 need” means a senior who experiences cultural, so-
3 cial, or geographical isolation that—

4 (A) restricts the ability of the senior to
5 perform normal daily tasks; or

6 (B) threatens the capacity of the senior to
7 live independently.

8 (14) STATE AGENCY FOR SURPLUS PROP-
9 ERTY.—The term “State agency for surplus prop-
10 erty” has the meaning given the term “state agen-
11 cy” under section 549 of title 40, United States
12 Code.

13 (15) STUDENT.—The term “student” means
14 any individual enrolled in an educational institution,
15 but not a public or private child care center.

16 (16) SURPLUS COMPUTER OR TECHNOLOGY
17 EQUIPMENT.—The term “surplus computer or tech-
18 nology equipment” means computer or technology
19 equipment that is property described under section
20 549(b)(2) of title 40, United States Code.

21 (17) TECHNOLOGY EQUIPMENT.—The term
22 “technology equipment” means any physical asset
23 related to a computer or information technology, in-
24 cluding any peripheral component, tablet, commu-
25 nication device (such as a router, server, or cell

1 phone), printer, scanner, uninterruptible power
2 source, cable, or connection.

3 (18) VETERAN.—The term “veteran” has the
4 meaning given that term in section 101 of title 38,
5 United States Code.

6 (h) REGULATIONS.—The Administrator may issue
7 regulations that are necessary and appropriate to imple-
8 ment this section.