

**AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE  
TO H.R. 3544  
OFFERED BY MRS. CAROLYN B. MALONEY OF  
NEW YORK**

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

**1 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Computers for Vet-  
3 erans and Students Act of 2022” or the “COVS Act”.

**4 SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

5 Congress finds the following:

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

15 (2) The COVID–19 pandemic has highlighted  
16 the gap between those with computer access and  
17 those without. Millions of students, their families,

1 and workers from across the economy were unable to  
2 do schoolwork, work remotely from home, or connect  
3 to loved ones and their communities because of the  
4 digital divide.

5 (3) Any Federal program that distributes sur-  
6 plus Federal computers to a public school, an edu-  
7 cational nonprofit, or a nonprofit computer refurb-  
8 isher for repair and distribution would benefit from  
9 a partnership with a nonprofit organization, whose  
10 mission is bridging the digital divide.

11 **SEC. 3. REFURBISHMENT AND DISTRIBUTION OF SURPLUS**

12 **COMPUTERS AND TECHNOLOGY EQUIPMENT.**

13 (a) GSA TRANSFER.—

14 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after  
15 State agencies for surplus property have been given  
16 an opportunity to review surplus computer or tech-  
17 nology equipment that has been determined to be re-  
18 pairable, the Administrator shall transfer to partici-  
19 pating nonprofit computer refurbishers such equip-  
20 ment with full title to such equipment, for repair  
21 and distribution in accordance with subsection  
22 (c)(1).

23 (2) INFORMATION ON EQUIPMENT REFUR-  
24 BISHED.—A nonprofit computer refurbisher that re-  
25 ceives surplus computer or technology equipment

1 under this subsection shall provide the Adminis-  
2 trator with any information the Administrator deter-  
3 mines to be necessary for required reporting, includ-  
4 ing information about the distribution of such equip-  
5 ment.

6 (b) PARTNERSHIP.—The Administrator may estab-  
7 lish a partnership with non-governmental entities, at no  
8 cost, to—

9 (1) facilitate the identification of nonprofit com-  
10 puter refurbishers and the distribution of surplus  
11 computer or technology equipment under this sec-  
12 tion; and

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

15 (c) REPAIR AND DISTRIBUTION.—

16 (1) DISTRIBUTION TO BRIDGE THE DIGITAL DI-  
17 VIDE.—A nonprofit computer refurbisher that re-  
18 ceives equipment under subsection (a) shall repair  
19 and distribute such equipment to an educational in-  
20 stitution, a veteran, an individual with a disability,  
21 a low-income individual, a student, or a senior in  
22 need that is residing or based in the United States.

23 (2) TRAINING PROGRAMS.—Any nonprofit com-  
24 puter refurbisher that receives any equipment under  
25 subsection (a) shall offer training programs on the

1 use of computers and technology equipment for any  
2 of the following:

3 (A) Educational institutions.

4 (B) Veterans.

5 (C) Individuals with disabilities.

6 (D) Low-income individuals.

7 (E) Students.

8 (F) Seniors.

9 (d) REPORTS REQUIRED.—Not later than 1 year  
10 after the date of the enactment of this Act, and every 2  
11 years thereafter for the next 4 years, the Administrator  
12 shall submit to Congress a report on the efforts of the  
13 Administrator under this Act.

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

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

24 (g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

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

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

8           (3) EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION.—The term  
9           “educational institution” means—

10                   (A) any public or private child care center,  
11                   preschool, elementary school, secondary school,  
12                   accredited institution of vocational or profes-  
13                   sional education, or institution of higher edu-  
14                   cation; and

15                   (B) in the case of an accredited institution  
16                   of vocational or professional education or an in-  
17                   stitution of higher education composed of more  
18                   than one school, college, or department that is  
19                   administratively a separate unit, each such  
20                   school, college, or department.

21           (4) FEDERAL AGENCY.—The term “Federal  
22           agency” has the meaning given the term “federal  
23           agency” in section 102 of title 40, United States  
24           Code.

1           (5) DISABILITY.—The term “disability” has the  
2           meaning given that term in section 3 of the Ameri-  
3           cans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C.  
4           12102).

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

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

13          (8) NONPROFIT COMPUTER REFURBISHER.—  
14          The term “nonprofit computer refurbisher” means a  
15          nonprofit organization that primarily works to im-  
16          prove access to information and communication  
17          technology in their mission to bridge the digital di-  
18          vide.

19          (9) NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION.—The term  
20          “nonprofit organization” means an organization that  
21          is described under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal  
22          Revenue Code of 1986 and is exempt from taxation  
23          under section 501(a) of such Code.

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

4           (11) SECONDARY SCHOOL.—The term “sec-  
5 ondary school” has the meaning given such term in  
6 section 8101 of the Elementary and Secondary Edu-  
7 cation Act of 1965.

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

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

13               (A) restricts the ability of the senior to  
14 perform normal daily tasks; or

15               (B) threatens the capacity of the senior to  
16 live independently.

17          (14) STATE AGENCY FOR SURPLUS PROP-  
18 erty.—The term “State agency for surplus prop-  
19 erty” has the meaning given the term “state agen-  
20 cy” under section 549 of title 40, United States  
21 Code.

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

1           (16) SURPLUS COMPUTER OR TECHNOLOGY  
2 EQUIPMENT.—The term “surplus computer or tech-  
3 nology equipment” means computer or technology  
4 equipment that is property described under section  
5 549(b)(2) of title 40, United States Code.

6           (17) TECHNOLOGY EQUIPMENT.—The term  
7 “technology equipment” means any physical asset  
8 related to a computer or information technology, in-  
9 cluding any peripheral component, tablet, commu-  
10 nication device (such as a router, server, or cell  
11 phone), printer, scanner, uninterruptible power  
12 source, cable, or connection.

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

16           (h) REGULATIONS.—The Administrator may issue  
17 regulations that are necessary and appropriate to imple-  
18 ment this section.

