

May 22, 2006

S 1742. ACCESSIBLE ELECTRONIC INFORMATION. Filed 5/22/06. *TO ESTABLISH AN ACCESSIBLE ELECTRONIC INFORMATION SERVICE FOR BLIND AND DISABLED PERSONS AND TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS FOR THE SERVICE.* Adds new GS Chapter 168, Article 4, entitled the Accessible Electronic Information Act. Directs the Division of Services for the Blind in the Department of Health and Human Services to establish, operate, promote, and administer an information service for the blind. Directs that the service provides news and other timely information, including newspapers, to blind and disabled people from a multistate service center, using high-speed computers and telecommunications technology for interstate acquisition of content and rapid distribution in a form appropriate for use by blind and disabled people. Directs the division to enter into an agreement for the provision of services with a "qualified entity," which may be a State agency or a nonprofit. Directs division to maximize the use of federal and other funding sources and to take advantage of low-cost interstate telecommunication rates. Appropriates \$75,000 for 2006-07 from General Fund to the Department of Health and Human Services to establish the electronic information service. Effective July 1, 2006.

Intro. by Dorsett.

GS 168, APPROP