

107TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3252

To amend the Education of the Deaf Act of 1986 to authorize the Secretary of Education to establish the National Junior College for Deaf and Blind at the Alabama Institute for Deaf and Blind.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 8, 2001

Mr. RILEY (for himself, Mr. BACHUS, Mr. CALLAHAN, Mr. EVERETT, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. CRAMER, and Mr. HILLIARD) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

A BILL

To amend the Education of the Deaf Act of 1986 to authorize the Secretary of Education to establish the National Junior College for Deaf and Blind at the Alabama Institute for Deaf and Blind.

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 “National Junior Col-
5 lege for Deaf and Blind at the Alabama Institute for Deaf
6 and Blind Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 The Congress finds as follows:

3 (1) The United States has low rates of college
4 completion by high school graduates who are deaf or
5 blind.

6 (2) Deaf or blind students who attend college
7 have a dropout rate in the first 2 years of college
8 that is approximately 4 times higher than the drop-
9 out rate of hearing and sighted students.

10 (3) The United States has a shortage of teach-
11 ers and service professionals trained at the associate
12 degree or certificate level to provide services to indi-
13 viduals who are deaf or blind.

14 (4) The United States has very limited distance
15 learning opportunities for individuals who are deaf
16 or blind.

17 **SEC. 3. NATIONAL JUNIOR COLLEGE FOR DEAF AND BLIND.**

18 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Title I of the Education of
19 the Deaf Act of 1986 (20 U.S.C. 4301 et seq.) is amended
20 by adding at the end the following:

21 **“PART C—NATIONAL JUNIOR COLLEGE FOR**
22 **DEAF AND BLIND**

23 **“SEC. 120. PURPOSES.**

24 “The purposes of this part are the following:

25 “(1) Easing the transition from high school to
26 college for students who are deaf or blind.

1 “(2) Increasing the number of deaf or blind in-
2 dividuals attending and completing college.

3 “(3) Providing a modern distance learning pro-
4 gram and a residential facility for postsecondary
5 technical training and education for individuals who
6 are deaf or blind.

7 “(4) Preparing individuals who are deaf or
8 blind for successful employment.

9 “(5) Training individuals to provide instruc-
10 tional, professional, and other services to individuals
11 who are deaf or blind.

12 **“SEC. 121. AGREEMENT.**

13 “(a) GENERAL AUTHORITY.—The Secretary shall
14 seek to enter into, not later than 1 year after the enact-
15 ment of the National Junior College for Deaf and Blind
16 at the Alabama Institute for Deaf and Blind Act, an
17 agreement with the Alabama Institute for Deaf and Blind
18 for the establishment and operation (including construc-
19 tion and provision of equipment) of the National Junior
20 College for Deaf and Blind.

21 “(b) NATIONAL MISSION ACTIVITIES.—The agree-
22 ment shall provide the national mission activities of
23 NJCDB, including the following:

24 “(1) Maintenance and operation of exemplary
25 postsecondary education programs, projects, and ac-

1 activities for the primary purpose of developing, evalu-
2 ating, and disseminating innovative curriculums, in-
3 structional techniques and strategies, and materials
4 that can be used in various educational environ-
5 ments to serve individuals who are deaf or blind.

6 “(2) Addressing the specific educational, tech-
7 nological, and special support needs of students who
8 are deaf or blind.

9 “(c) PROVISIONS OF AGREEMENT.—The agreement
10 shall—

11 “(1) provide that Federal funds appropriated
12 for the benefit of NJCDB be used in accordance
13 with the applicable provisions of this Act and such
14 agreement;

15 “(2) provide that NJCDB will make an annual
16 report to the Secretary on its operations and the na-
17 tional mission activities of its postsecondary edu-
18 cation programs;

19 “(3) provide that in the design and construction
20 of any facilities, maximum attention will be given to
21 innovative auditory and visual devices and installa-
22 tions appropriate for the educational functions of
23 such facilities; and

24 “(4) establish a policy of outreach and recruit-
25 ment to employ and advance employment of individ-

1 uals with disabilities, particularly individuals who
2 are deaf or blind, at NJCDB.

3 “(d) MODIFICATION.—The Secretary and AIDB may
4 periodically modify the agreement as determined to be nec-
5 essary by the Secretary or AIDB.

6 “(e) SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM.—

7 “(1) DEVELOPMENT.—The agreement shall
8 provide for the development of a scholarship pro-
9 gram, under which NJCDB awards scholarships to
10 students enrolled in its programs.

11 “(2) USE OF FUNDS.—Funds awarded as schol-
12 arships under this section shall be used to assist in
13 paying the costs of attending NJCDB, including tui-
14 tion, fees, training courses, study, and room and
15 board.

16 “(3) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—
17 There are authorized to be appropriated \$1,000,000
18 for fiscal year 2002 and such sums as may be nec-
19 essary thereafter to carry out this subsection.

20 “(f) PROVISIONS REGARDING NTID.—If the Sec-
21 retary enters into an agreement with AIDB under this sec-
22 tion, the provisions of sections 202, 203, 204, 205, 206,
23 207, 208, and 210 shall apply to NJCDB and AIDB in
24 the same manner as such provisions apply to NTID and
25 the institution of higher education with which the Sec-

1 retary has an agreement under section 112, respectively,
2 except as follows:

3 “(1) References to individuals who are deaf or
4 hard of hearing shall be construed as references to
5 individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing, blind, or
6 of low vision.

7 “(2) NJCDB shall develop the policies de-
8 scribed in section 203(c)(2)(A) not later than 180
9 days after the date of the enactment of the National
10 Junior College for Deaf and Blind at the Alabama
11 Institute for Deaf and Blind Act.

12 “(3) For purposes of section 210, references to
13 deafness related research, development, and dem-
14 onstration activities shall be construed as references
15 to deafness or blindness related research, develop-
16 ment, and demonstration activities.”.

17 (b) DEFINITIONS.—Section 201 of the Education of
18 the Deaf Act of 1986 (20 U.S.C. 4351) is amended by
19 adding at the end the following:

20 “(8) The term ‘AIDB’ means the Alabama In-
21 stitute for Deaf and Blind.

22 “(9) The term ‘NJCDB’ means the National
23 Junior College for Deaf and Blind.”.

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