CRS Issue Statement on ADA and Civil Rights of Individuals with Disabilities

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January 12, 2010
The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), the major civil rights statute prohibiting discrimination against individuals with disabilities, has been the subject of congressional interest since its enactment in 1990. On September 25, 2008, P.L. 110-325, the ADA Amendments Act was enacted to reject narrow Supreme Court interpretations of the definition of disability. Proposed regulations implementing this new law have been published and there will most likely be congressional oversight regarding the final regulations. The ADA Amendments Act contains a conforming amendment for section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and implementation of this change, especially with regard to education, may also be the subject of congressional oversight.

Congress maintains a continuing interest in other ADA oversight issues, especially in the areas of emergency response and preparedness and influenza pandemics, including the current H1N1 influenza pandemic. In addition, Congress has also been concerned about the issue of vexatious lawsuits under the ADA, and legislation (H.R. 2397) has been introduced in the 111th Congress.

The issues involving the civil rights of individuals with disabilities arise in other contexts as well. For example, the use of seclusion and restraint in the public schools has given rise to legislation in both the House and Senate (H.R. 4247, S. 2860, 111th Cong.). In addition, the Developmental Disabilities and Bill of Rights Act may be considered for reauthorization in the 111th Congress. This may involve issues relating to the actions of protection and advocacy agencies (P & A's) such as notice requirements (H.R. 1255, 111th Cong.).

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For detailed information select from the following topical links.

**ADA and Civil Rights of Individuals with Disabilities**

**General**

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA): Statutory Language and Recent Issues

Civil Rights of Individuals with Disabilities: The Opinions of Judge Sotomayor

The Americans with Disabilities Act: Supreme Court Decisions

Olmstead v. L.C.: Judicial Developments

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Proposed Regulations

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA): Proposed Employment Regulations

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973: Prohibiting Discrimination Against Individuals with Disabilities in Programs or Activities Receiving Federal Assistance

Access to Paper Currency by Visually Impaired Individuals: The American Council of the Blind v. Paulson

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Requirements Concerning the Provision of Interpreters by Hospitals and Doctors

The Developmental Disabilities Act

The Americans with Disabilities Act: Application to the Internet

The Use of Seclusion and Restraint in Public Schools: The Legal Issues

**The Definition of Disability**

The ADA Amendments Act: P.L. 110-325

**Emergency Situations**

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA): Employment Issues and the 2009 Influenza Pandemic

The Americans with Disabilities Act and Emergency Preparedness and Response

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Coverage of Contagious Diseases

**Transportation Issues**

Public Transportation Providers’ Obligations Under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

Federal Law on Parking Privileges for Persons with Disabilities
Overview of the Air Carrier Access Act