Summary: Requires the Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board (Access Board) to establish standards for accessibility of medical diagnostic equipment to individuals with disabilities.

Status update: On June 22, 2010, the Access Board issued a Federal Register notice announcing a public information meeting on Thursday, July 20, 2010.

Next steps:
- July 20, 2010 – Public information meeting
- March 23, 2012 (and periodically thereafter) – Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board must, in consultation with the Food and Drug Administration, promulgate regulatory standards setting forth the minimum technical criteria for medical diagnostic equipment

Additional information:
- Background information on the Access Board -- http://www.access-board.gov/ and http://www.washington.edu/accessit/articles?1161

Long summary:
Sec. 4203. Removing barriers and improving access to wellness for individuals with disabilities.
Not later than March 23, 2012, the Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board (Access Board) in consultation with the Food and Drug Administration must issue regulatory standards to ensure that medical diagnostic equipment used in physicians’ offices, clinics, emergency rooms, hospitals, and other medical settings is accessible to, and usable by, individuals with accessibility needs, and allows independent entry to, use of, and exit from the equipment by such individuals to the maximum extent possible. Such equipment includes examination tables, examination chairs (including chairs used for eye examinations or procedures), weight scales, mammography equipment, x-ray machines, and other radiological equipment commonly used for diagnostic purposes by health professionals. The Board must periodical review and, as appropriate, amend such standards.
SEC. 4203. REMOVING BARRIERS AND IMPROVING ACCESS TO WELLNESS FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES.
Title V of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 791 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end of the following:

“SEC. 510. ESTABLISHMENT OF STANDARDS FOR ACCESSIBLE MEDICAL DIAGNOSTIC EQUIPMENT.
“(a) STANDARDS.—Not later than 24 months after the date of enactment of the Affordable Health Choices Act, the Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board shall, in consultation with the Commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration, promulgate regulatory standards in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act (2 U.S.C. 551 et seq.) setting forth the minimum technical criteria for medical diagnostic equipment used in (or in conjunction with) physician’s offices, clinics, emergency rooms, hospitals, and other medical settings. The standards shall ensure that such equipment is accessible to, and usable by, individuals with accessibility needs, and shall allow independent entry to, use of, and exit from the equipment by such individuals to the maximum extent possible.
“(b) MEDICAL DIAGNOSTIC EQUIPMENT COVERED.—The standards issued under subsection (a) for medical diagnostic equipment shall apply to equipment that includes examination tables, examination chairs (including chairs used for eye examinations or procedures, and dental examinations or procedures), weight scales, mammography equipment, x-ray machines, and other radiological equipment commonly used for diagnostic purposes by health professionals.
“(c) REVIEW AND AMENDMENT.—The Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board, in consultation with the Commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration, shall periodically review and, as appropriate, amend the standards in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act (2 U.S.C. 551 et seq.).”