



SENATE OF PENNSYLVANIA BILL SUMMARY

House Bill 400 Printer's No. 1182

Prime Sponsor: Gingrich
Committee: Labor and Industry

SYNOPSIS:

Establishes the "Work Experience for High School Students with Disabilities Act" and imposes duties on the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation.

SUMMARY:

HB 400 establishes the "Work Experience for High School Students with Disabilities Act" and provides as follows:

Pertinent Definitions

The term "**competitive integrated employment**" is defined as:

- Work in the competitive labor market
- Performed on a full-time or part-time basis in an integrated setting
- The worker is compensated at or above the minimum wage, but not less than the customary wage and level of benefits paid by an employer for the same or similar work performed by persons who do not have disabilities.

The term "**integrated setting**" is defined as:

- An employment situation in the community where an applicant/eligible individual interacts with individuals who do not have disabilities to the same extent that individuals without a disability interact with other persons.

Powers and Responsibilities: Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR)

HB 400 requires OVR to facilitate the process of job and career development between local education agencies and public/private employers to ensure the successful transition of high school students with disabilities into competitive integrated employment.

In collaboration with local education agencies and other relevant public agencies, OVR shall:

- Provide information for the development of individual education plans for high school students with disabilities and ensure that job skill training is included in such plans when appropriate.
- When possible, attend individual education plan meetings in person or by alternative means (i.e. video conference, conference calls) when invited by local education agencies.
- An OVR representative must attend at least one meeting in each of the last two years prior to the anticipated graduation of a disabled high school student.
- Arrange for, monitor, and support the placement of high school students with disabilities in lawful internships, on-the-job training, and full-time or part-time work at competitive wages in integrated settings with public/private sector employers.

- Provide professional guidance relative to job coaching services.
- Provide counseling on opportunities for enrollment in comprehensive transition or postsecondary educational programs.
- Publish the following information within 45 days after each calendar quarter:
 - The number of individualized education meetings attended by OVR staff.
 - The number of individual education plans that include new or significantly modified goals and specific steps toward the attainment of competitive integrated employment.
 - The number of job referrals made to employers on behalf of students with disabilities while still in high school.
 - The number of high school students with disabilities working in part-time and summer jobs as a result of referrals made by OVR staff.
 - The number of high school students with disabilities working in part-time or summer jobs who are receiving job coaching services.
 - The number of high school students with disabilities who enter competitive integrated employment within 3 months of their graduation
- Submit a quarterly report on the implementation of this act to the following entities:
 - The Secretary of Labor and Industry
 - The Pennsylvania Rehabilitation Council
 - The State Board of Vocational Rehabilitation
 - The Secretary of Education

Powers and Responsibilities: State Board of Vocational Rehabilitation (the “Board”)

The Board is responsible for reviewing OVR’s information and quarterly reports and for providing advice to OVR officials on achieving the objectives of this act. The Board’s report must be publically accessible, and must be made available to:

- The President Pro Tempore of the Senate
- The Majority and Minority Leaders of the Senate
- The Majority and Minority Chairmen of the Senate Labor and Industry Committee
- The Majority and Minority Chairmen of the Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee
- The Speaker of the House of Representatives
- The Majority and Minority Leaders of the House of Representatives
- The Majority and Minority Chairmen of the House Labor and Industry Committee
- The Majority and Minority Chairmen of the House Human Services Committee

The Board must review and approve all policies and procedures necessary for the implementation of this act. The PA Rehabilitation Council must be afforded the opportunity to comment on such policies and procedures prior to their consideration by the Board.

Notice of Funding

Upon the initial appropriation of sufficient funds to carry out the provisions of the legislation, OVR must publish notice of the appropriation in the PA Bulletin.

Effective Date: The notice of funding provision is effective immediately. The remainder of the act takes effect upon publication of the notice of the appropriation in the PA Bulletin.

BILL HISTORY:

PN 0530 Referred to House LABOR AND INDUSTRY, Feb. 17, 2015

PN 0757 Reported as amended, Feb. 26, 2015

First consideration, Feb. 26, 2015

Laid on the table, Feb. 26, 2015

Removed from table, March 4, 2015

PN 1034 Second consideration, with amendments, March 30, 2015

Re-committed to House APPROPRIATIONS, March 30, 2015

(Remarks see House Journal Page), March 30, 2015

PN 1182 Re-reported as amended, April 13, 2015

Third consideration and final passage, April 14, 2015 (198-0)

In the Senate

Referred to Senate LABOR AND INDUSTRY, April 17, 2015

Prepared by: Cortez 5/29/2015