

HOUSE BILL 660

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2lr1664

By: **Delegates Guyton, Boyce, Forbes, Griffith, Jackson, Lehman, Metzgar, Rogers, Terrasa, and Valentino-Smith**

Introduced and read first time: January 31, 2022

Assigned to: Ways and Means

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Commission to Study the Division of Rehabilitative Services**
3 **(Student Job Training Reformation Act)**

4 FOR the purpose of establishing the Commission to Study the Division of Rehabilitative
5 Services to evaluate and make recommendations on improving various aspects of the
6 Division of Rehabilitative Services' programs and services; and generally relating to
7 the Commission to Study the Division of Rehabilitative Services.

8 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
9 That:

10 (a) There is a Commission to Study the State Department of Education's Division
11 of Rehabilitative Services.

12 (b) The Commission consists of the following members:

13 (1) one member of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President of
14 the Senate;

15 (2) one member of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of the
16 House; and

17 (3) the following members, appointed by the State Superintendent of
18 Schools:

19 (i) one parent of a student who reported a favorable outcome after
20 working with the Division of Rehabilitative Services;

21 (ii) one parent of a student who reported an unfavorable outcome
22 after working with the Division of Rehabilitative Services;

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



- 1 (iii) one individual who reported a favorable outcome after working
2 with the Division of Rehabilitative Services;
- 3 (iv) one individual who reported an unfavorable outcome after
4 working with the Division of Rehabilitative Services;
- 5 (v) one individual employed by a local school system as a transition
6 specialist;
- 7 (vi) one individual employed by a private school as a transition
8 specialist;
- 9 (vii) one individual employed by a local school system as a special
10 education teacher;
- 11 (viii) one individual employed by a private school as a special
12 education teacher;
- 13 (ix) one individual employed by the State Department of Education
14 as a transition specialist;
- 15 (x) one individual employed by the Division of Rehabilitative
16 Services with experience participating in individualized education program team meetings;
- 17 (xi) one individual employed by the Division of Rehabilitative
18 Services with experience working in the Division's training programs;
- 19 (xii) the State Coordinator for Autism Strategy;
- 20 (xiii) one community behavioral health provider who provides
21 vocational programs and employment support;
- 22 (xiv) one representative of a residential community and vocational
23 program;
- 24 (xv) one representative of the State Board of Education;
- 25 (xvi) one representative of the Developmental Disabilities
26 Administration;
- 27 (xvii) one representative of the Maryland Association of Nonpublic
28 Special Education Facilities;
- 29 (xviii) one representative of the Maryland Developmental Disabilities
30 Council;

1 (xix) one representative of Arc Maryland;

2 (xx) one representative of Disability Rights Maryland who:

3 1. is an attorney; and

4 2. has experience working with the Division of Rehabilitative
5 Services;

6 (xxi) one attorney who:

7 1. represents children and young adults with disabilities;
8 and

9 2. has experience working with the Division of Rehabilitative
10 Services;

11 (xxii) one representative of a community college; and

12 (xxiii) other members considered necessary by the State
13 Superintendent of Schools.

14 (c) The Assistant State Superintendent of the Division of Rehabilitative Services
15 shall chair the Commission.

16 (d) The Division of Rehabilitative Services shall provide staff for the Commission.

17 (e) A member of the Commission:

18 (1) may not receive compensation as a member of the Commission; but

19 (2) is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard State
20 Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.

21 (f) The Commission shall evaluate and make recommendations on:

22 (1) methods for improving stakeholder input on the Division of
23 Rehabilitative Services' programs and services;

24 (2) methods for improving the relationship and communication between
25 transition professionals working at the Division of Rehabilitative Services and the
26 Developmental Disabilities Administration;

27 (3) methods for improving the amount of time it takes to provide vocational
28 rehabilitation and transitional services;

29 (4) methods for improving public-private partnerships to assist more

1 Division of Rehabilitative Services' clients;

2 (5) methods for improving accountability and transparency of the Division
3 of Rehabilitative Services' programs and services;

4 (6) whether the eligibility criteria for the Division of Rehabilitative
5 Services' programs and services should be altered;

6 (7) whether the Division of Rehabilitative Services should continue to be a
7 division of the State Department of Education or should be transferred to another State
8 agency;

9 (8) if the Commission determines that the Division of Rehabilitative
10 Services should continue to be a division of the State Department of Education, whether
11 the Division of Rehabilitative Services should have a governing board separate from the
12 State Board of Education;

13 (9) whether there are specific budgetary requests that could support the
14 job training programs provided by the Division of Rehabilitative Services; and

15 (10) any other improvements to the Division of Rehabilitative Services'
16 programs and services the Commission considers appropriate.

17 (g) The Commission shall meet at least five times between June 1, 2022, and
18 December 15, 2022.

19 (h) On or before December 15, 2022, the Commission shall report its findings and
20 recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1257 of the State
21 Government Article, the General Assembly.

22 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June
23 1, 2022. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and 1 month and, at the end of June
24 30, 2023, this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be
25 abrogated and of no further force and effect.