

Relating to the Creation of a State Rehabilitation Council

WHEREAS, people with disabilities are a significant part of the Wisconsin community; and

WHEREAS, it is important for people with disabilities to have the opportunity to participate in rehabilitation programs; and

WHEREAS, 29 USCS § 725 prescribes that the governor establish a state rehabilitation council to review, analyze, and advise the Department of Workforce Development regarding the agency's responsibilities under 29 USCS §§ 720 et seq.:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, TOMMY G. THOMPSON, Governor of the State of Wisconsin, by the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of this State. and specifically by section 14.019 of the Wisconsin Statutes, do hereby:

- ł. Create the State Rehabilitation Council (hereinafter "Council").
- 2. Provide that the Council shall consist of twenty-four (24) members appointed by the Governor to serve at the pleasure of the Governor.
- 3. Provide that a majority of Council members shall be individuals with disabilities as described in 29 USCS § 706(20)(A) and not employed by the Wisconsin Division of Vocational Rehabilitation.
- 4. Provide that the Council shall include the following members:
 - a. One (1) representative of the Statewide Independent Living Council established under 29 USCS § 796d; and
 - b. One (1) representative of a parent training and information center established pursuant to 20 USCS § 1482(a); and
 - c. One (1) representative of the client assistance program established under 29 USCS § 732; and
 - d. One (1) qualified vocational rehabilitation counselor, with knowledge of and experience with vocational rehabilitation programs, who shall serve as an ex officio, nonvoting member of the Council if the counselor is an employee of the Department of Workforce Development; and
 - e. One (1) representative of community rehabilitation program service providers; and
 - f. Four (4) representatives of business, industry, and labor; and
 - g. Representatives of disability advocacy groups representing the (1) individuals with physical, following constituencies: cognitive, sensory, and mental disabilities and (2) individuals' representatives of individuals with disabilities who have difficulty in representing themselves or are unable due to their disabilities to represent themselves; and
 - h. Current or former applicants for, or recipients of, vocational rehabilitation services; and

- i. One (1) representative of the directors of the projects carried out under 29 USCS § 741; and
- j. One (1) representative of the state educational agency responsible for the public education of students with disabilities who are cligible to receive services under 29 USCS §§ 720 et seq., and part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act [20 USCS §§ 1411 et seq.]; and
- k. One (1) representative of the state workforce investment board.
- Provide that the Administrator of the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation shall be an ex officio, nonvoting member of the Council.
- 6. Provide that the Council shall select a chairperson from the membership of the Council.
- Provide that each member of the Council shall serve for a term of not more than three (3) years, except that:
 - a. A member appointed to fill a vacancy occurring prior to the expiration of the term for which a predecessor was appointed, shall be appointed for the remainder of such term; and
 - b. The terms of service of the members initially appointed shall be (as specified by the Governor) for such fewer number of years as will provide for the expiration of terms on a staggered basis.
- Prohibit members of the Council from serving more than two (2) consecutive full terms, except for any member fitting the qualifications of 29 USCS § 725(b)(1)(A)(iii) or (ix).
- Charge the Council to perform the functions required in 29 USCS § 725.
- Provide that resources shall be available in accordance with 29 USCS § 725(d).
- 11. Direct the Council to convene at least four (4) meetings each year.



IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Wisconsin to be affixed. Done at the Capitol in the City of Madison this tenth day of February in the year one thousand nine hundret and ninety-nine.

G. THOMPSO TOMMY Governor

By the Governor:

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Secretary of State