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4-1561-02
                        A bill to be entitled
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           An act relating to vocational rehabilitation;
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           amending s. 413.20, F.S.; defining terms;
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           creating s. 413.206, F.S.; requiring the
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           Division of Vocational Rehabilitation to
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           develop a 5-year plan relating to general
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           vocational rehabilitation programs; providing
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           requirements for the contents of the plan;
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           creating s. 413.208, F.S.; providing for
           service providers' quality-assurance and
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           fitness for their responsibilities; amending s.
           413.405, F.S.; redesignating the Rehabilitation
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           Advisory Council as the Rehabilitation Council;
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           revising council membership and duties;
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           requiring the council to submit reports to the
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           Governor and to legislative leaders; amending
           ss. 413.445, 413.615, F.S.; revising
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           cross-references to conform to the division's
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           transfer from the Department of Labor and
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           Employment Security to the Department of
           Education; requiring the Office of Program
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           Policy Analysis and Government Accountability
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           to conduct a review of the progress made by the
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           division and to prepare a report by a specified
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           time; providing an effective date.
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    Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
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           Section 1. Section 413.20, Florida Statutes, is
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    amended to read:
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413.20 Definitions.--As used in this part, the term:

CODING: Words stricken are deletions; words underlined are additions.

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- (1) "Act" means the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended.
- (2) "Activity of daily living" means an activity required on a frequent basis that permits an individual to secure or maintain independence. Such activities include, but are not limited to, personal home care, transportation, personal assistance services, housekeeping, shopping, attending school, communication, and employment.
- (3) "Assessment for determining eligibility and vocational rehabilitation needs" means a review of existing data to determine whether an individual is eligible for vocational rehabilitation services and to assign the priority, and, to the extent additional data is necessary to make such determination and assignment, a preliminary assessment of such data, including the provision of goods and services during such assessment. If additional data is necessary, the division must make a comprehensive assessment of the unique strengths, resources, priorities, concerns, abilities, capabilities, interests, and informed choice needs, including the need for supported employment, of an eligible individual to make a determination of the goals, objectives, nature, and scope of vocational rehabilitation services to be included in the individualized plan for employment written rehabilitation program of the individual.
- (4) "Center for independent living" means a consumer-controlled, community-based, cross-disability, nonresidential, private, nonprofit organization designed and operated within a local community by persons who have disabilities to provide an array of independent living services.

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- (5) "Community rehabilitation program" means a program that provides directly or facilitates the provision of one or more services to individuals who have a disability to enable them to maximize their opportunities for employment, including career advancement.
- (6) (5) "Department" means the Department of Education Labor and Employment Security.
- (7) "Disability" means a physical or mental impairment that constitutes or results in a substantial impediment to employment.
- (8) "Division" means the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation of the Department of Education Labor and Employment Security.
- (8) "Emergency medical evacuation system" means a division-approved transportation system that provides timely skilled emergency care and movement of persons believed to have suffered brain or spinal cord injuries.
- (9) "Employment outcome" means, with respect to an individual, entering or retaining full-time or, if appropriate, part-time competitive employment in the integrated labor market to the greatest extent practicable; supported employment; or any other type of employment including self-employment, telecommuting, or business ownership, which is consistent with an individual's strengths, resources, priorities, concerns, abilities, capabilities, interests, and informed choice or satisfying any other vocational outcome the secretary may determine to be consistent with the act.
- (10) "Extended services" means one or more ongoing support services and other appropriate services needed to 31 | support and maintain a person who has a most significant

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30 31 severe disability in supported employment and to assist an eligible person in maintaining integrated and competitive employment. Extended services are based upon a determination of the needs of the eligible person as specified in the person's individualized written rehabilitation program and are provided by a state agency, a nonprofit private organization, an employer, or any other appropriate resource after the person has made the transition from support provided by the department.

- (11) "Independent living core services" means informational and referral services; independent living skills training; peer counseling, including cross-disability peer counseling; and individual and systems advocacy.
- (12) "Independent living services" means any appropriate rehabilitation service that will enhance the ability of a person who has a severe disability to live independently, to function within her or his family and community and, if appropriate, to secure and maintain employment. Services may include, but are not limited to, psychological counseling and psychotherapeutic counseling; independent living care services; community education and related services; housing assistance; physical and mental restoration; personal attendant care; transportation; personal assistance services; interpretive services for persons who are deaf; recreational activities; services to family members of persons who have severe disabilities; vocational and other training services; telecommunications services; sensory and other technological aids and devices; appropriate preventive services to decrease the needs of persons assisted under the program; and other rehabilitation services appropriate for the

independent living needs of a person who has a severe disability.

- "Limiting disability" means a physical condition (13)that constitutes, contributes to, or, if not corrected, will result in an impairment of one or more activities of daily living but does not result in an individual qualifying as a person who has a disability.
- (14) "Occupational license" means any license, permit, or other written authority required by any governmental unit to be obtained in order to engage in an occupation.
- (15) "Ongoing support services" means services provided at a twice-monthly minimum to persons who have a most significant disability severe disabilities, to:
- (a) Make an assessment regarding the employment situation at the worksite of each individual in supported employment or, under special circumstances at the request of the individual, offsite.
- (b) Based upon the assessment, provide for the coordination or provision of specific intensive services, at or away from the worksite, that are needed to maintain the individual's employment stability.

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The ongoing support services may consist of, but are not limited to, the provision of skilled job trainers who accompany the individual for intensive job-skill training at the worksite, job development and placement, social skills training, followup services, and facilitation of natural supports at the worksite.

(16) "Person who has a disability" means an individual who has a physical or mental impairment that, for the 31 individual, constitutes or results in a substantial impediment

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to employment and who can therefore benefit in terms of an employment outcome from vocational rehabilitation services. The term encompasses the terms "person who has a significant disability" and term "person who has a most significant severe disability."

(17) "Person who has a significant severe disability" means an individual who has a disability that is a severe physical or mental impairment that seriously limits one or more functional capacities, such as mobility, communication, self-care, self-direction, interpersonal skills, work tolerance, or work skills, in terms of an employment outcome; whose vocational rehabilitation may be expected to require multiple vocational rehabilitation services over an extended period of time; and who has one or more physical or mental disabilities resulting from amputation, arthritis, autism, blindness, burn injury, cancer, cerebral palsy, cystic fibrosis, deafness, head injury, heart disease, hemiplegia, hemophilia, respiratory or pulmonary dysfunction, mental retardation, mental illness, multiple sclerosis, muscular dystrophy, musculoskeletal disorder, neurological disorder, including stroke and epilepsy, paraplegia, quadriplegia, or other spinal cord condition, sickle-cell anemia, specific learning disability, end-stage renal disease, or another disability or a combination of disabilities that is determined, after an assessment for determining eligibility and vocational rehabilitation needs, to cause comparable substantial functional limitation.

(18) "Person who has a most significant disability"
means an individual who has a significant disability who meets
the designated state unit's criteria for an individual who has
a most significant disability.

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 (19)(18) "Personal assistance services" means a range of services, provided by one or more persons, designed to assist a person who has a disability to perform daily living activities on or off the job that the individual would typically perform if the individual did not have a disability. Such services shall be designed to increase the individual's control in life and ability to perform everyday activities on or off the job.

(20)(19) "Physical and mental restoration" means any medical, surgical, or therapeutic treatment necessary to correct or substantially modify a physical or mental condition that is stable or slowly progressive and constitutes an impediment to employment, but is of such nature that it can such correction or modification may reasonably be expected to correct or modify eliminate or reduce such impediment to employment within a reasonable length of time, including, but not limited to, medical, psychiatric, dental, and surgical treatment, nursing services, hospital care in connection with surgery or treatment, convalescent home care, drugs, medical and surgical supplies, and prosthetic and orthotic devices.

 $\underline{(21)}\overline{(20)}$ "Rehabilitation" means those events and processes occurring after injury and progressing to ultimate stabilization and maximum possible recovery.

(21) "Rehabilitation center" means a division-approved facility providing intermediate care that stresses rehabilitation for persons who have brain or spinal cord injuries.

(22) "Rehabilitation service" means any service, provided directly or indirectly through public or private agencies, found by the division to be necessary to enable a

person who has a limiting disability to engage in competitive employment.

- (23) "Rules" means rules <u>adopted</u> made by the department and promulgated in the manner prescribed by law.
- (24) "Secretary" means the secretary of the Department of Labor and Employment Security.

(25)(25) "State plan" means the state plan approved by the Federal Government as qualifying for federal funds under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended. However, the term "state plan," as used in ss. 413.39-413.401, means the State Plan for Independent Living Rehabilitative Services under Title VII(A) of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended.

(25)(26) "Supported employment" means competitive work in integrated working settings for persons who have severe disabilities and for whom competitive employment has not traditionally occurred or for whom competitive employment has been interrupted or is intermittent as a result of a severe disability. Persons who have severe disabilities requiring supported employment need intensive supported employment services or extended services in order to perform such work.

(26)(27) "Supported employment services" means ongoing support services and other appropriate services needed to support and maintain a person who has a severe disability in supported employment. Supported employment services are based upon a determination of the needs of the eligible individual as specified in the person's individualized written rehabilitation program. The services are provided singly or in combination and are organized and made available in such a way as to assist eligible individuals in entering or maintaining integrated, competitive employment. The services are provided for a period of time not to extend beyond 18 months, but can

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be extended under special circumstances with the consent of 2 the individual to achieve the objectives of the rehabilitation 3 plan. 4 (27)(28) "Third-party coverage" means any claim for, 5 right to receive payment for or any coverage for, the payment 6 of any vocational rehabilitation and related services. (28)(29) "Third-party payment" means any and all 7 8 payments received or due as a result of any third-party 9 coverage. 10 (29)(30) "Transition services" means a coordinated set 11 of activities for a student, designed within an outcome-oriented process, that promote movement from school to 12 postschool activities, including postsecondary education; 13 vocational training; integrated employment; including 14 supported employment; continuing and adult education; adult 15 services; independent living; or community participation. The 16 coordinated set of activities must be based upon the 17 individual student's needs, taking into account the student's 18 19 preferences and interests, and must include instruction, 20 community experiences, the development of employment and other postschool adult living objectives, and, when appropriate, 21 acquisition of daily living skills and functional vocational 22 23 evaluation. 24 (30)(31) "Transitional living facility" means a 25 state-approved facility as defined and licensed pursuant to chapter 400 and division-approved in accord with this part. 26 27 (32) "Trauma center" means a state-approved acute care 28 facility that provides diagnosis and treatment of persons who

have brain or spinal cord injuries.

(33) "Traumatic injury" means:

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(a) A lesion to the spinal cord or cauda equina with evidence of significant involvement of two of the following deficits or dysfunctions:

- 1. Motor deficit.
- 2. Sensory deficit.
- 3. Bowel and bladder dysfunction; or

(b) An insult to the skull, brain, or its covering, resulting from external trauma which produces an altered state of consciousness or anatomic motor, sensory, cognitive, or behavioral deficits.

(31)(34) "Vocational rehabilitation" and "vocational rehabilitation services" mean any service, provided directly or through public or private instrumentalities, to enable an individual or group of individuals to achieve an employment outcome, including, but not limited to, medical and vocational diagnosis, an assessment for determining eligibility and vocational rehabilitation needs by qualified personnel; counseling, guidance, and work-related placement services; vocational and other training services; physical and mental restoration services; maintenance for additional costs incurred while participating in rehabilitation; interpreter services for individuals who are deaf; recruitment and training services to provide new employment opportunities in the fields of rehabilitation, health, welfare, public safety, law enforcement, and other appropriate service employment; occupational licenses; tools, equipment, and initial stocks and supplies; transportation; telecommunications, sensory, and other technological aids and devices; rehabilitation technology services; referral services designed to secure needed services from other agencies; transition services;

 on-the-job or other related personal assistance services; and supported employment services.

 $\underline{(32)}\overline{(35)}$ "Vocational rehabilitation and related services" means any services that are provided or paid for by the division.

Section 2. Section 413.206, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

413.206 Five-year plan.--The division shall, by
October 1, 2002, after identifying specific weaknesses in
service capacity and program performance and after consulting
with stakeholders, develop a 5-year plan that prioritizes any
additional initiatives, including privatization, according to
identified needs, and details the steps needed to effectively
implement those initiatives, consistent with federal
requirements. The plan should provide that the division enter
into local public-private partnerships to the extent that
doing so is beneficial to increasing employment outcomes for
persons who have a disability and ensuring their full
involvement in the comprehensive workforce investment system.
The plan must be submitted to the Governor, the President of
the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

- (1) The plan must:
- (a) Promote innovative contracts that upgrade or enhance direct services to Floridians who have a disability.

 Contracts must be evaluated on need and cost and must be performance-based.
- (b) Include recommendations regarding specific performance standards and measurable outcomes and must outline procedures for monitoring the implementation of the plan. The division shall annually report to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives

the progress that has been made toward achieving the objectives set forth in the plan.

(2) The division shall work with the employer community to assist that community to better define, address, and meet its business needs by employing qualified Floridians who have a disability.

Section 3. Section 413.208, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

413.208 Service providers; quality-assurance and fitness for responsibilities.--The Division of Vocational Rehabilitation shall assure that providers of direct service maintain an internal system of quality-assurance, have proven functional systems, and are subject to a due-diligence inquiry as to their fitness to undertake service responsibilities, regardless of whether a contract for services is procured competitively or noncompetitively.

Section 4. Section 413.405, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

413.405 Rehabilitation Advisory Council.--There is created the Rehabilitation Advisory Council to assist the division in the planning and development of statewide rehabilitation programs and services, to recommend improvements to such programs and services, and to perform the functions listed in this section.

- (1) The council shall be composed of:
- (a) At least one representative of the Independent Living Council, which representative may be the chairperson or other designee of the council.
- (b) At least one representative of a parent training and information center established pursuant to s. 631(c)(9) of

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the Individuals with Disabilities Act, 20 U.S.C. s. 1431(c)(9).

- (c) At least one representative of the client assistance program established under s. 112 of the act.
- (d) At least one vocational rehabilitation counselor who has knowledge of and experience in vocational rehabilitation services, who shall serve as an ex officio, nonvoting member of the council if the counselor is an employee of the department.
- (e) At least one representative of community rehabilitation program service providers.
- (f) At least four representatives of business, industry, and labor.
- (g) Representatives of disability advocacy groups representing a cross-section of:
- 1. Persons who have physical, cognitive, sensory, or mental disabilities.
- 2. Parents, family members, guardians, advocates, or authorized representatives of persons who have disabilities and who find it difficult to or are unable due to their disabilities to represent themselves.
- (h) Current or former applicants for, or recipients of, vocational rehabilitation services.
- (i) The director of the division, who shall be an ex officio member of the council.
- (j) At least one representative of the state

 educational agency responsible for the public education of

 students who have a disability and who are eligible to receive

 vocational rehabilitation services and services under the

 Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

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(k) At least one representative of the state workforce 1 investment board. 2 3 (2) Other individuals who have a disability, 4 representatives of state government, local government, 5 employers, community organizations, and members of the former 6 Occupational Access and Opportunity Commission may be 7 considered for council membership. 8 (3) Total membership on the council, excluding including ex officio members, shall be no fewer than 15 not 9 10 exceed 19 at any one time. 11 (4) (4) (3) Members of the council shall be appointed by the Governor, who shall select members after soliciting 12 13 recommendations from representatives of organizations representing a broad range of individuals who have 14 disabilities and organizations interested in those 15 individuals. In selecting members, the extent to which 16 17 minority populations are represented must be considered to the 18 greatest extent practicable. 19 (5) (4) A majority of council members shall be persons 20 who are: 21 Individuals who have a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more of the 22 person's major life activities; have a record of such an 23 24 impairment; or are regarded as having such an impairment disabilities described in s. 7(8)(B) of the act. 25 (b) Not employed by the division. 26 27 (6) The council shall select a chairperson from 28 among the membership of the council.

(7) (6) Each member of the council shall serve for a

term of not more than 3 years, except that:

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(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.

(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.

No member of the council may serve more than two consecutive full terms.

(8) (8) (7) Any vacancy occurring in the membership of the council shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment. A vacancy does not affect the power of the remaining members to execute the duties of the council.

(9)(8) In addition to the other functions specified in this section, the council shall, after consulting with the state workforce investment board:

- (a) Review, analyze, and advise the division regarding the performance of the responsibilities of the division under Title I of the act, particularly responsibilities relating to:
 - Eligibility, including order of selection.
- The extent, scope, and effectiveness of services 2. provided.
- Functions performed by state agencies that affect 3. or potentially affect the ability of individuals who have disabilities to achieve rehabilitation goals and objectives under Title I.
 - (b) In partnership with the division:
- 1. Develop, agree to, and review state goals and priorities in accordance with 34 C.F.R. 361.29(c); and

 2. Evaluate the effectiveness of the vocational rehabilitation program and submit reports of progress to the Governor, the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the Secretary of the United States Department of Education in accordance with 34 C.F.R. 361.29(e).

(c)(b) Advise the department and the division and, at the discretion of the department or division, assist in the preparation of applications, the state plan the strategic plan, and amendments to the plan plans, applications, reports, needs assessments, and evaluations required by Title I.

- (c) To the extent feasible, conduct a review and analysis of the effectiveness of, and consumer satisfaction with:
- 1. The functions performed by state agencies and other public and private entities responsible for performing functions for individuals who have disabilities.
 - 2. Vocational rehabilitation services:
- a. Provided or paid for from funds made available under the act or through other public or private sources.
- b. Provided by state agencies and other public and private entities responsible for providing vocational rehabilitation services to individuals who have disabilities.
- (d) Prepare and submit an annual report on the status of vocational rehabilitation services in the state to the Governor, the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the Secretary of the United States Department of Education and the Commissioner of the Rehabilitative Services Administration, established under s. 702 of the act, and make the report available to the public.

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- (e) Coordinate with other councils within Florida, including the Independent Living Council, the advisory panel established under s. 613(a)(12) of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, 20 U.S.C. s. 1413(a)(12), the State Planning Council described in s. 124 of the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act, 42 U.S.C. s. 6024, and the state mental health planning council established under s. 1916(e) of the Public Health Service Act, 42 U.S.C. s. 300x-4(e), and the state workforce investment board.
- (f) Advise the department and division and provide for coordination and the establishment of working relationships among the department, the division, the Independent Living Council, and centers for independent living in the state.
- (q) Perform such other functions as the council determines to be appropriate that are comparable to functions performed by the council.
- $(10)\frac{(9)}{(a)}$ The council shall prepare, in conjunction with the division, a plan for the provision of such resources, including at least four staff persons, as may be necessary to carry out the functions of the council. The resource plan shall, to the maximum extent possible, rely on the use of resources in existence during the period of implementation of the plan.
- (b) If there is a disagreement between the council and the division in regard to the resources necessary to carry out the functions of the council as set forth in this section, the disagreement shall be resolved by the Governor.
- (c) The council shall, consistent with law, supervise and evaluate such staff and other personnel as may be 31 necessary to carry out its functions.

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(d) While assisting the council in carrying out its duties, staff and other personnel shall not be assigned duties by the division or any other state agency or office that would create a conflict of interest.

(11) (10) The council shall convene at least four meetings each year. These meetings shall occur in such places as the council deems necessary to conduct council business. The council may conduct such forums or hearings as the council considers appropriate. The meetings, hearings, and forums shall be publicly announced. The meetings shall be open and accessible to the public unless there is a valid reason for an executive session. The council shall make a report of each meeting which shall include a record of its discussions and recommendations, all of which reports shall be made available to the public.

 $(12)\frac{(11)}{(11)}$ The council shall reimburse members of the council for reasonable and necessary expenses of attending council meetings and performing council duties, including child care and personal assistance services, as provided in and subject to the requirements of s. 112.061. The council may pay reasonable compensation to a member of the council if such member is not employed or must forfeit wages from other employment for each day the member is engaged in performing the duties of the council.

Section 5. Subsection (1) of section 413.445, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

- 413.445 Recovery of third-party payments for vocational rehabilitation and related services .--
- (1) As used in this section, "vocational rehabilitation and related services" means any services that 31 which are provided or paid for by the Division of Vocational

Rehabilitation of the Department of Education Labor and 2 Employment Security. 3 Section 6. Subsection (12) of section 413.615, Florida Statutes, is amended to read: 4 5 413.615 Florida Endowment for Vocational 6 Rehabilitation. --7 (12) ANNUAL REPORT. -- The board shall issue a report to 8 the Governor, the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the Commissioner of Education 9 10 Secretary of Labor and Employment Security by February 1 each 11 year, summarizing the performance of the endowment fund for the previous fiscal year, summarizing the foundation's 12 fundraising activities and performance, and detailing those 13 14 activities and programs supported by the endowment principal or earnings on the endowment principal or by bequests, gifts, 15 grants, donations, and other valued goods and services 16 17 received. Section 7. Before the 2005 Regular Session of the 18 19 Legislature, the Office of Program Policy Analysis and 20 Government Accountability shall conduct a review of and prepare a report on the progress of the Division of Vocational 21 22 Rehabilitation of the Department of Education. Section 8. This act shall take effect July 1, 2002. 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31

SENATE SUMMARY Defines terms relating to vocational rehabilitation. Requires the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation to develop a 5-year plan relating to general vocational rehabilitation programs. Provides requirements for the contents of the plan. Provides for service providers' quality-assurance and fitness for their responsibilities. Redesignates the Rehabilitation Advisory Council as the Rehabilitation Council. Revises council membership and duties. Requires the council to submit reports to the Governor and to legislative leaders. Revises cross-references to conform to the division's transfer from the Department of Labor and Employment Security to the Department of Education. Requires the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability to conduct a review of the division's progress and to prepare a report before the 2005 Regular Session of the Legislature.