

By the Committee on Education; and Senator Wise

304-2133-04

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to blind services; amending s.
3 413.011, F.S.; providing legislative policy and
4 intent; providing duties of the Division of
5 Blind Services; requiring the division to
6 develop and implement a state plan for
7 vocational rehabilitation services; requiring
8 the division to develop and implement a state
9 plan for independent living services; providing
10 for the division to purchase and distribute
11 specialized equipment without using state
12 centralized purchasing procedures; exempting
13 such equipment from certain record and
14 inventory requirements; creating a children's
15 program; requiring background investigations of
16 division personnel; requiring division
17 personnel and applicants for employment to meet
18 level 2 screening standards as a condition of
19 employment; redesignating the Advisory Council
20 for the Blind as the Rehabilitation Council for
21 the Blind; amending ss. 413.014, 413.041,
22 413.051, and 413.091, F.S.; modernizing
23 terminology; requiring the division to conduct
24 a periodic survey of state properties; creating
25 s. 413.095, F.S.; providing for the division to
26 retain title to certain real and personal
27 property intended for use by people who have
28 visual impairments and certain personnel;
29 allowing the division to repossess, transfer,
30 and dispose of such property; providing for
31 rulemaking by the division; authorizing the

1 division to create a blind services
2 direct-support organization; providing purposes
3 and objectives; providing for members of the
4 board of the direct-support organization;
5 providing that the organization is subject to
6 s. 24, Art. I of the State Constitution, ch.
7 119, F.S., and s. 286.011, F.S.; requiring
8 expenses of the organization to be paid by
9 private funds; providing guidelines for the use
10 of the funds; repealing ss. 413.061, 413.062,
11 413.063, 413.064, 413.065, 413.066, 413.067,
12 413.068, and 413.069, F.S., relating to permits
13 for soliciting funds to benefit the blind;
14 providing an effective date.

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16 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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18 Section 1. Section 413.011, Florida Statutes, is
19 amended to read:

20 413.011 Division of Blind Services, legislative
21 policy, intent; internal organizational structure and powers;
22 Rehabilitation Advisory Council for the Blind.--

23 (1) Policy.--It is the policy of the Legislature that
24 all programs, projects, and activities of the division are to
25 be carried out in a manner consistent with the following
26 principles:

27 (a) Respect for individual dignity, personal
28 responsibility, self-determination to live independently, and
29 pursuit of meaningful careers, based on informed choice;
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1 (b) Support for the involvement of an individual's
2 representative if an individual requests, desires, or needs
3 such support;

4 (c) Respect for the individual's privacy and equal
5 access, including the use of information in accessible
6 formats; and

7 (d) Integration and full participation of individuals
8 who are blind in society on equal terms with others.

9 (2) It is the intent of the Legislature to establish a
10 coordinated program of services which will be available to
11 individuals throughout this state who are blind. The program
12 must be designed to maximize employment opportunities for such
13 individuals and to increase their independence and
14 self-sufficiency.

15 (3)~~(1)~~ The internal organizational structure of the
16 Division of Blind Services shall be designed for the purpose
17 of ensuring the greatest possible efficiency and effectiveness
18 of services to the blind and to be consistent with chapter 20.
19 The Division of Blind Services shall plan, supervise, and
20 carry out the following activities:

21 (a) Recommend personnel as may be necessary to carry
22 out the purposes of this section.

23 (b) Develop and implement a state plan for vocational
24 rehabilitation services for individuals who are blind,
25 pursuant to section 101 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as
26 amended.

27 (c) In conjunction with the Florida Independent Living
28 Council, develop and implement a 3-year state plan for
29 independent living services and provide independent living
30 services for blind and visually impaired individuals,
31 including services for older individuals who are blind,

1 pursuant to Title VII, chapter 2 of the Rehabilitation Act of
2 1973, as amended.

3 (d) Provide services that contribute to the
4 maintenance of or the increased independence of older
5 individuals who are blind.

6 (e) Establish, equip, and maintain an orientation and
7 adjustment center or centers to provide independent living
8 skills training and other training such as, but not limited
9 to, instruction in Braille; use of the long white cane for
10 independent travel; homemaking and home-management skills; and
11 communication skills, including the use of computer
12 technology, to prepare individuals who are blind or visually
13 impaired for eventual vocational training, job placement, and
14 independence.

15 (f) Establish and implement a small business
16 enterprises program and serve as the state licensing agency
17 for individuals who are blind, pursuant to the federal
18 Randolph-Sheppard Act.

19 (g) Purchase and distribute specialized equipment,
20 devices, and technology, including low-vision aids, obtained
21 directly from specialty vendors without using state
22 centralized purchasing procedures.

23 (h) In cooperation with the Library of Congress,
24 provide library services to persons who are blind and persons
25 who have other print-related disabilities.

26 (i) In cooperation with other appropriate agencies,
27 provide to employers, the state education agency, and local
28 education agencies technical assistance in the provision of
29 auxiliary aids and services to people who are blind, students,
30 and their parents in complying with the Americans with

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1 Disabilities Act and the Individuals with Disabilities

2 Education Act, as amended.

3 (j) Provide technical assistance to agencies within
4 the state in order to assure that information technology
5 purchased or used by such agencies is accessible to and usable
6 by individuals who are blind, at the time the technology is
7 purchased or used.

8 (k) Participate, through the designation of the
9 director or an appropriate staff member of the division, on
10 boards, commissions, or bodies in this state for the purpose
11 of coordinating and planning services.

12 (l) Adopt rules for administering the programs of the
13 division.

14 (m) Apply for and receive money from any state or
15 federal agency to support the programs of the division.

16 (n) Develop and administer any other program that will
17 further the provision of services to people who are blind and
18 that the division determines falls within its scope of
19 responsibility.

20 ~~(b) Cause to be compiled and maintained a complete~~
21 ~~register of the blind in the state, which shall describe the~~
22 ~~condition, cause of blindness, and capacity for education and~~
23 ~~industrial training, with such other facts as may seem to the~~
24 ~~division to be of value. Any information in the register of~~
25 ~~the blind which, when released, could identify an individual~~
26 ~~is confidential and exempt from the provisions of s.~~
27 ~~119.07(1).~~

28 (o)(c) Inquire into the cause of blindness, inaugurate
29 preventive measures, and provide for the examination and
30 treatment of the blind, or those threatened with blindness,
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1 for the benefit of such persons, and shall pay therefor,
2 including necessary incidental expenses.

3 (p)~~(d)~~ Aid the blind in finding employment, teach them
4 trades and occupations within their capacities, assist them in
5 disposing of products made by them in home industries, assist
6 them in obtaining funds for establishing enterprises where
7 federal funds reimburse the state, and do such things as will
8 contribute to the efficiency of self-support of the blind.

9 (q)~~(e)~~ Establish one or more training schools and
10 workshops for the employment of suitable blind persons; make
11 expenditures of funds for such purposes; receive moneys from
12 sales of commodities involved in such activities and from such
13 funds make payments of wages, repairs, insurance premiums and
14 replacements of equipment. All of the activities provided for
15 in this section may be carried on in cooperation with private
16 workshops for the blind, except that all tools and equipment
17 furnished by the division shall remain the property of the
18 state.

19 (r)~~(f)~~ Provide special services and benefits for the
20 blind for developing their social life through community
21 activities and recreational facilities.

22 (s)~~(g)~~ Undertake such other activities as may
23 ameliorate the condition of blind citizens of this state.

24 (t)~~(h)~~ Cooperate with other agencies, public or
25 private, especially the Division of the Blind and Physically
26 Handicapped of the Library of Congress and the Division of
27 Library and Information Services of the Department of State,
28 to provide library service to the blind and other handicapped
29 persons as defined in federal law and regulations in carrying
30 out any or all of the provisions of this law.

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1 (u)~~(i)~~ Recommend contracts and agreements with
2 federal, state, county, municipal and private corporations,
3 and individuals.

4 (v)~~(j)~~ Receive moneys or properties by gift or bequest
5 from any person, firm, corporation, or organization for any of
6 the purposes herein set out, but without authority to bind the
7 state to any expenditure or policy except such as may be
8 specifically authorized by law. All such moneys or properties
9 so received by gift or bequest as herein authorized may be
10 disbursed and expended by the division upon its own warrant
11 for any of the purposes herein set forth, and such moneys or
12 properties shall not constitute or be considered a part of any
13 legislative appropriation made by the state for the purpose of
14 carrying out the provisions of this law.

15 (w)~~(k)~~ Prepare and make available to the blind, in
16 braille and on electronic recording equipment, Florida
17 Statutes chapters 20, 120, 121, and 413, in their entirety.

18 (x)~~(l)~~ Adopt by rule:

19 1. Procedures for providing vocational rehabilitation
20 services for the blind; and—

21 2.~~(m)~~ ~~Adopt by rule forms and~~ Instructions to be used
22 by the division in its general administration.

23 (4)~~(2)~~ As used in this section, the term:

24 (a) "Act," unless the context indicates otherwise,
25 means the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 U.S.C. ss. 701-797.

26 (b) "Blind" or "blindness" means the condition of any
27 person for whom blindness is a disability as defined by the
28 Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 U.S.C. s. 706(8)(b).

29 (c) "Department" means the Department of Education.

30 (5) There is created within the Division of Blind
31 Services a children's program to serve children who are blind

1 from 5 years of age through transition to the Vocational
2 Rehabilitation Program. This program must supplement services
3 already offered by the school system to foster the child's
4 learning and ability to function independently. The child's
5 parents, guardian, and family members should be an integral
6 part of the program in order to foster independence.

7 (6) Property that is purchased by a state agency for
8 the purpose of making accommodations for individuals who are
9 blind is not subject to the record and inventory requirements
10 set forth in s. 273.02. A state agency may use funds from all
11 possible sources to make accommodations for individuals who
12 are blind.

13 (7) The division shall require all employees and
14 applicants for employment to undergo personnel screening and
15 security background investigations as provided in chapter 435,
16 using the level two standards for screening set forth in that
17 chapter, as a condition of employment and continued
18 employment. All division employees and applicants for
19 employment must meet level 2 screening standards as provided
20 in s. 435.04 prior to employment and as a condition of
21 continued employment.

22 (8)(3) There is hereby created in the department the
23 Rehabilitation Advisory Council for the Blind, which is an
24 advisory council as defined in s. 20.03, to assist the
25 division in the planning and development of statewide
26 rehabilitation programs and services, to recommend
27 improvements to such programs and services, and to perform the
28 functions provided in this section.

29 (a) The advisory council shall be composed of:
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- 1 1. At least one representative of the Independent
2 Living Council, which representative may be the chair or other
3 designee of the council;
- 4 2. At least one representative of a parent training
5 and information center established pursuant to s. 631(c)(9) of
6 the Individuals with Disabilities Act, 20 U.S.C. s.
7 1431(c)(9);
- 8 3. At least one representative of the client
9 assistance program established under the act;
- 10 4. At least one vocational rehabilitation counselor
11 who has knowledge of and experience in vocational
12 rehabilitation services for the blind, who shall serve as an
13 ex officio nonvoting member of the council if the counselor is
14 an employee of the department;
- 15 5. At least one representative of community
16 rehabilitation program service providers;
- 17 6. Four representatives of business, industry, and
18 labor;
- 19 7. At least one representative of a disability
20 advocacy group representing individuals who are blind;
- 21 8. At least one parent, family member, guardian,
22 advocate, or authorized representative of an individual who is
23 blind, has multiple disabilities, and either has difficulties
24 representing himself or herself or is unable, due to
25 disabilities, to represent himself or herself;
- 26 9. Current or former applicants for, or recipients of,
27 vocational rehabilitation services; and
- 28 10. The director of the division, who shall be an ex
29 officio member of the council.
- 30 (b) Members of the council shall be appointed by the
31 Governor, who shall select members after soliciting

1 recommendations from representatives of organizations
2 representing a broad range of individuals who have
3 disabilities, and organizations interested in those
4 individuals.

5 (c) A majority of council members shall be persons who
6 are:

- 7 1. Blind; and
- 8 2. Not employed by the division.

9 (d) The council shall select a chair from among its
10 membership.

11 (e) Each member of the council shall serve for a term
12 of not more than 3 years, except that:

13 1. A member appointed to fill a vacancy occurring
14 prior to the expiration of the term for which a predecessor
15 was appointed shall be appointed for the remainder of such
16 term; and

17 2. The terms of service of the members initially
18 appointed shall be, as specified by the Governor, for such
19 fewer number of years as will provide for the expiration of
20 terms on a staggered basis.

21 (f) A ~~No~~ member of the council may not serve more than
22 two consecutive full terms.

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

27 (h) In addition to the other functions specified in
28 this section, the council shall:

29 1. Review, analyze, and advise the division regarding
30 the performance of the responsibilities of the division under
31 Title I of the act, particularly responsibilities relating to:

- 1 a. Eligibility, including order of selection;
- 2 b. The extent, scope, and effectiveness of services
- 3 provided; and
- 4 c. Functions performed by state agencies that affect
- 5 or potentially affect the ability of individuals who are blind
- 6 to achieve rehabilitation goals and objectives under Title I.
- 7 2. Advise the department and the division, and, at the
- 8 discretion of the department or division, assist in the
- 9 preparation of applications, the state plan, the strategic
- 10 plan, and amendments to the plans, reports, needs assessments,
- 11 and evaluations required by Title I.
- 12 3. To the extent feasible, conduct a review and
- 13 analysis of the effectiveness of, and consumer satisfaction
- 14 with:
- 15 a. The functions performed by state agencies and other
- 16 public and private entities responsible for performing
- 17 functions for individuals who are blind.
- 18 b. Vocational rehabilitation services:
- 19 (I) Provided or paid for from funds made available
- 20 under the act or through other public or private sources.
- 21 (II) Provided by state agencies and other public and
- 22 private entities responsible for providing vocational
- 23 rehabilitation services to individuals who are blind.
- 24 4. Prepare and submit an annual report on the status
- 25 of vocational rehabilitation services for the blind in the
- 26 state to the Governor and the Commissioner of the
- 27 Rehabilitative Services Administration, established under s.
- 28 702 of the act, and make the report available to the public.
- 29 5. Coordinate with other councils within the state,
- 30 including the Independent Living Council, the advisory panel
- 31 established under s. 613(a)(12) of the Individuals with

1 Disabilities Education Act, 20 U.S.C. 1413(a)(12), the State
2 Planning Council described in s. 124 of the Developmental
3 Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act, 42 U.S.C. s.
4 6024, and the state mental health planning council established
5 under s. 1916(e) of the Public Health Service Act, 42 U.S.C.
6 300X-4(e).

7 6. Advise the department and division and provide for
8 coordination and the establishment of working relationships
9 among the department, the division, the Independent Living
10 Council, and centers for independent living in the state.

11 7. Perform such other functions consistent with the
12 purposes of the act as the council determines to be
13 appropriate that are comparable to functions performed by the
14 council.

15 (i)1. The council shall prepare, in conjunction with
16 the division, a plan for the provision of such resources,
17 including such staff and other personnel, as may be necessary
18 to carry out the functions of the council. The resource plan
19 shall, to the maximum extent possible, rely on the use of
20 resources in existence during the period of implementation of
21 the plan.

22 2. If there is a disagreement between the council and
23 the division in regard to the resources necessary to carry out
24 the functions of the council as set forth in this section, the
25 disagreement shall be resolved by the Governor.

26 3. The council shall, consistent with law, supervise
27 and evaluate such staff and other personnel as may be
28 necessary to carry out its functions.

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

3 (j) A ~~No~~ council member may not ~~shall~~ cast a vote on
4 any matter that would provide direct financial benefit to the
5 member or otherwise give the appearance of a conflict of
6 interest under state law.

7 (k) The council shall convene at least four meetings
8 each year. These meetings shall occur in such places as the
9 council deems necessary to conduct council business. The
10 council may conduct such forums or hearings as the council
11 considers appropriate. The meetings, hearings, and forums
12 shall be publicly announced. The meetings shall be open and
13 accessible to the public. The council shall make a report of
14 each meeting which shall include a record of its discussions
15 and recommendations, all of which reports shall be made
16 available to the public.

17 Section 2. Section 413.014, Florida Statutes, is
18 amended to read:

19 413.014 Community ~~Community-based~~ rehabilitation
20 programs.--The Division of Blind Services shall enter into
21 cooperative agreements with community ~~community-based~~
22 rehabilitation programs as defined by the Rehabilitation Act
23 of 1973, as amended, to be the service providers for the blind
24 citizens of their communities. The division shall, as rapidly
25 as feasible, increase the amount of such services provided by
26 community ~~community-based~~ rehabilitation programs. The goal
27 shall be to decrease the amount of such services provided by
28 division employees and to increase to the maximum extent
29 allowed by federal law the amount of such services provided
30 through cooperative agreements with community ~~community-based~~
31 service providers. The division shall seek, to the maximum

1 extent allowed by federal and state law and regulation, all
2 available federal funds for such purposes. Funds and in-kind
3 matching contributions from community and private sources
4 shall be used to maximize federal funds. Unless prohibited by
5 federal law or regulation, the share of the federal vocational
6 rehabilitation grant apportioned for services to the blind may
7 ~~shall be~~ not be less than 17 percent.

8 Section 3. Section 413.041, Florida Statutes, is
9 amended to read:

10 413.041 Eligible blind persons; placement in vending
11 facilities in public places.--For the purpose of assisting
12 blind persons to become self-supporting, the Division of Blind
13 Services is hereby authorized to carry on activities to
14 promote the employment of eligible blind persons, including
15 the licensing and establishment of such persons as operators
16 of vending facilities on public property. The ~~said~~ division
17 may cooperate with any agency of the Federal Government in the
18 furtherance of the provisions of the Act of Congress entitled
19 "An Act to authorize the operation of stands in federal
20 buildings by blind persons, to enlarge the economic
21 opportunities of the blind and for other purposes," Pub. L.
22 No. 732, 74th Congress, and the ~~said~~ division may cooperate in
23 the furtherance of the provisions of any other act of Congress
24 providing for the rehabilitation of the blind which is that
25 ~~may now be~~ in effect or is ~~may~~ hereafter ~~be~~ enacted by
26 Congress.

27 Section 4. Subsections (1), (2), (4), (7), and (9), of
28 section 413.051, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

29 413.051 Eligible blind persons; operation of vending
30 stands.--

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1 (1) This section may be cited ~~shall be known~~ as the
2 Little Randolph Sheppard Act.

3 (2) As used in this section, the term:

4 (a) "Blind licensee" means any blind person trained
5 and licensed by the Division of Blind Services of the
6 Department of Education to operate a vending stand.

7 (b) "Vending stand" means any manually operated
8 cafeteria, snack bar, cart service, shelter, counter, or other
9 manually operated facility for the sale of newspapers,
10 periodicals, confections, tobacco products, foods, beverages,
11 or other such articles or services.

12 (c) "State agency" means any agency of the state.

13 (d) "State property" means any building or land owned,
14 leased, or otherwise controlled by the state, but does not
15 include any building or land under the control of the Board of
16 Regents, a community college district board of trustees, or
17 any state correctional institution as defined in s. 944.02.

18 (e) "Property custodian" or "person in charge" means
19 any employee, agent, or person who is in control of or
20 responsible for the maintenance, operation, and protection of
21 any state property.

22 (4) The Division of Blind Services shall conduct ~~be~~
23 ~~responsible for~~ a periodic survey of all state properties and,
24 where feasible, shall establish vending facilities to be
25 operated by blind licensees.

26 (7) A ~~No~~ person or persons may not ~~shall~~ be offered or
27 granted any concession by any property custodian or person in
28 charge to operate a vending stand on any state property
29 acquired after July 1, 1979, unless the division is notified
30 of that proposed concession.

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1 (9) This section does not ~~It is the legislative intent~~
2 ~~that this section shall not apply or operate, in any way or~~
3 ~~any manner,~~ to divest any person or organization presently
4 operating a vending stand on state, county, or municipal
5 property from continuing to do so; however, the property
6 custodian or person in charge shall notify the Division of
7 Blind Services at least 180 days prior to the expiration
8 whether the ~~such~~ vending facility location is suitable for
9 operation by a blind licensee.

10 Section 5. Section 413.091, Florida Statutes, is
11 amended to read:

12 413.091 Identification cards.--

13 (1) The Division of Blind Services of the Department
14 of Education shall ~~is hereby empowered to~~ issue identification
15 cards to persons known to be blind or partially sighted, upon
16 the written request of such individual.

17 (2) The individual shall submit proof of blindness as
18 specified by the division.

19 (3) The division is ~~will be~~ responsible for design and
20 content of the identification card and shall develop and adopt
21 ~~promulgate~~ rules, regulations, and procedures relating to the
22 eligibility and application for, and issuance and control of,
23 these identification cards.

24 Section 6. Section 413.095, Florida Statutes, is
25 created to read:

26 413.095 Retention of title to and disposal of property
27 and equipment.--

28 (1) The Division of Blind Services retains title to
29 any real or personal property, such as tools, instruments,
30 training supplies, equipment, motor vehicles, real property,
31 or other items of value acquired by the division for use by

1 people who have visual impairments or personnel employed in
2 operating programs of the division, and may repossess and
3 transfer such property for use by other people who have visual
4 impairments or personnel employed in the operation of the
5 division.

6 (2) The Division of Blind Services may offer for sale
7 any surplus items acquired in the operation of the program
8 when they are no longer necessary or may exchange them for
9 necessary items that can be used to greater advantage. When
10 any such surplus equipment is sold or exchanged, a receipt for
11 the sale or exchange which shows the consideration given for
12 the equipment must be taken from the purchaser, and the
13 consideration must be forwarded to the division to be included
14 in the division's portfolio of investments pursuant to s.
15 413.0115. Such funds are exempt from the State Treasury
16 pursuant to s. 215.311, and are available for expenditure for
17 any purposes consistent with ss. 413.011-413.092.

18 (3) The division has the exclusive right to develop
19 rules relating to records and recordkeeping for property owned
20 by the division which is referred to in subsections (1) and
21 (2).

22 Section 7. Blind services direct-support
23 organization.--

24 (1) As used in this section, the term "direct-support
25 organization" means a not-for-profit corporation incorporated
26 under chapter 617, Florida Statutes, and organized and
27 operated to conduct programs and activities; initiate
28 developmental projects; raise funds; request and receive
29 grants, gifts, and bequests of moneys; acquire, receive, hold,
30 invest, and administer, in its own name, securities, funds,
31 objects of value, or other property, real or personal; and

1 make expenditures to or for the direct or indirect benefit of
2 the state and for blind persons in this state.

3 (2)(a) The Division of Blind Services is authorized to
4 organize and incorporate a direct-support organization
5 pursuant to the requirements of this section and chapter 617,
6 Florida Statutes, to accomplish the purposes and objectives
7 set forth in this section.

8 (b) The first board of seven members of the
9 direct-support organization shall be appointed by the
10 Governor. Two members shall be appointed to serve 2-year
11 terms, three members shall be appointed to serve 3-year terms,
12 and two members shall be appointed to serve 4-year terms.
13 Thereafter, the board shall be self-appointed according to the
14 established by-laws.

15 (c) The director of the division or his or her
16 designee shall serve as an ex officio member of the board of
17 the direct-support organization.

18 (d) The direct-support organization is subject to the
19 requirements of Section 24 of Article I of the State
20 Constitution, chapter 119, Florida Statutes, and section
21 286.011, Florida Statutes.

22 (e) Upon the dissolution of the corporation, all
23 properties of the corporation revert to the division.

24 (f) The direct-support organization shall maintain
25 donations and direct service expenditures in a bank account
26 outside of the State Treasury.

27 (g) Any administrative costs of running and promoting
28 the purposes of the corporation must be paid by private funds.

29 (3) The purposes and objectives of the direct-support
30 organization must be consistent with the priority issues and
31 objectives of the Department of Education and must be in the

1 best interests of the state, though the Division of Blind
2 Services may permit, without charge, the appropriate use of
3 property and facilities of the state by the direct-support
4 organization subject to this section. Such use must be
5 directly in keeping with the approved purposes of the
6 direct-support organization.

7 (4) Funds designated for the direct-support
8 organization must be used for the enhancement of programs and
9 projects of the Division of Blind Services. All moneys
10 received by the direct-support organization must be deposited
11 into an account of the direct-support organization and must be
12 used by the organization in a manner consistent with the
13 purposes and goals of the direct-support organization.

14 (5) The direct-support organization shall comply with
15 the audit requirements of section 215.981, Florida Statutes.

16 (6) The director of the Division of Blind Services may
17 designate employees of the division to solicit donations from
18 public or private sources to fund the authorized purposes of
19 the direct-support organization.

20 Section 8. Sections 413.061, 413.062, 413.063,
21 413.064, 413.065, 413.066, 413.067, 413.068, and 413.069,
22 Florida Statutes, are repealed.

23 Section 9. This act shall take effect July 1, 2004.

24
25 STATEMENT OF SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES CONTAINED IN
26 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
27 Senate Bill 1918

28 This committee substitute requires employees and applicants
29 for employment of the Division of Blind Services to meet level
30 two background screening standards prior to employment and as
a condition of continued employment.

31 The committee substitute makes conforming changes to the
definition of community rehabilitation programs in accordance
with the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended.