

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to vocational rehabilitation; amending
3 s. 413.202, F.S.; providing for the future repeal of
4 the designation of the Division of Vocational
5 Rehabilitation as the administrative unit for purposes
6 of the Vocational Rehabilitation Act of 1973, subject
7 to legislative review of a required report; amending
8 s. 413.207, F.S.; requiring the Division of Vocational
9 Rehabilitation to initiate, by a specified date, a
10 performance improvement plan designed to achieve
11 specified goals; requiring the division to submit a
12 performance report annually, by a specified date, to
13 the Governor and the Legislature which includes
14 specified information; amending s. 413.23, F.S.;;
15 authorizing the division to develop and implement a
16 pilot program; creating s. 413.80, F.S.; requiring the
17 division to develop and implement a pilot program to
18 improve the state vocational rehabilitation program;
19 requiring the division to enter into partnership
20 agreements with local, nonprofit organizations;
21 authorizing the division to issue an invitation to
22 negotiate under certain circumstances; requiring that
23 the agreements include specific performance goals in
24 certain areas; requiring the division to report
25 activities and results of the pilot program to the
26 Governor and the Legislature annually by a specified

27 date; providing an effective date.

28

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

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31 Section 1. Section 413.202, Florida Statutes, is amended
32 to read:

33 413.202 Designated administrative unit.—Effective on the
34 effective date of this act, for the purposes of effecting
35 compliance with the Vocational Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as
36 amended, the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation is designated
37 as the administrative unit. This section is repealed June 30,
38 2016, unless reenacted by the Legislature after review of the
39 progress report on the achievement of the performance goals
40 required by s. 413.207.

41 Section 2. Section 413.207, Florida Statutes, is amended
42 to read:

43 413.207 Division of Vocational Rehabilitation; quality
44 assurance.—

45 (1) The Division of Vocational Rehabilitation shall
46 maintain an internal system of quality assurance, have proven
47 functional systems, perform due diligence, review provider
48 systems of quality assurance, and be subject to monitoring for
49 compliance with state and federal laws, rules, and regulations.

50 (2) No later than October 1, 2015, the division shall
51 develop and implement a performance improvement plan designed to
52 achieve the following goals:

53 (a) Increase the number and percentage of persons with a
54 program record who receive services.

55 (b) Increase the number of persons receiving postsecondary
56 workforce education as defined in s. 1004.02(25).

57 (c) Increase the number of persons earning CAPE industry
58 certifications and CAPE postsecondary industry certifications
59 approved pursuant to s. 1008.44.

60 (d) Increase the number of cases closed due to the
61 employment of the person who has a disability.

62 (e) Decrease the average cost per employment outcome, as
63 that term is defined in s. 413.20.

64 (f) Decrease the proportion of full-time equivalent
65 positions in the division devoted to administration.

66 (3) The improvement plan goals shall be designed to
67 elevate the state vocational rehabilitation program to one of
68 the top 10 in the nation.

69 (4) By December 1 of each year, the division shall submit
70 a performance report to the Governor, the President of the
71 Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives which
72 includes the following information for each of the 5 most recent
73 fiscal years:

74 (a) Caseload data, including the number of individuals who
75 apply for, and the number who receive, services, statewide and
76 by service area, by service type.

77 (b) Service use data, including the number of units of
78 service provided, statewide and by service area, by service

79 | type.

80 | (c) Financial data, including expenditures for
 81 | administration and the provision of services, by service type.
 82 | Expenditure data shall be reported on a statewide basis and by
 83 | service area, and expenditures for education-related services
 84 | shall be identified in specific categories such as tuition and
 85 | fees, program fees, and support services.

86 | (d) Outcome data, statewide and by service area, including
 87 | the number of cases closed without employment and with
 88 | employment. Employment data must specify whether the employment
 89 | was supported or integrated.

90 | Section 3. Section 413.23, Florida Statutes, is amended to
 91 | read:

92 | 413.23 Administration.—The division shall provide
 93 | vocational rehabilitation services to persons who have
 94 | disabilities determined to be eligible therefor and, in carrying
 95 | out the purposes of this part, is authorized, among other
 96 | things:

97 | (1) To cooperate with other departments, agencies, and
 98 | institutions, both public and private, in providing for the
 99 | vocational rehabilitation of persons who have disabilities, in
 100 | studying the problems involved therein, and in establishing,
 101 | developing, and providing, in conformity with the purposes of
 102 | this part, such programs, facilities, and services as may be
 103 | necessary or desirable.~~†~~

104 | (2) To enter into reciprocal agreements with other states

105 | to provide for the vocational rehabilitation of residents of the
 106 | states concerned.~~†~~

107 | (3) To conduct research and compile statistics relating to
 108 | the vocational rehabilitation of persons who have disabilities.~~†~~

109 | (4) To prepare a federally required state plan for
 110 | vocational rehabilitation, as required by the act. The state
 111 | plan must contain all of the elements required by s. 101 of the
 112 | act, including an assessment of the needs of persons who have
 113 | disabilities and how those needs may be most effectively met.
 114 | The division is authorized to make amendments to the state plan
 115 | considered necessary to maintain compliance with the act and to
 116 | implement such changes in order to qualify for and maintain
 117 | federal funding. After completion of the state plan or making
 118 | amendments to the state plan, the division must distribute
 119 | copies of the state plan to the Governor, the President of the
 120 | Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the
 121 | United States Secretary of Education.

122 | (5) To develop and implement a pilot program under s.
 123 | 413.80 using such resources and operating in designated regions
 124 | of the state as may be specified in the General Appropriations
 125 | Act.

126 | Section 4. Section 413.80, Florida Statutes, is created to
 127 | read:

128 | 413.80 Partnership for Employment of Persons with Unique
 129 | Abilities.—

130 | (1) The division shall develop and implement a Partnership

131 for Employment of Persons with Unique Abilities pilot program
132 aimed at achieving specific, measureable performance goals for
133 the employment of persons who have a disability. To that end,
134 the division shall partner with one or more local, nonprofit
135 organizations with experience assisting persons who have a
136 disability in gaining employment. If more than one qualifying
137 organization in the pilot areas designated by the General
138 Appropriations Act requests a partnership agreement, the
139 division may issue an invitation to negotiate pursuant to s.
140 287.057(1)(c).

141 (2) The partner organizations must agree to performance
142 goals established by the division based on improvement over past
143 performance in at least the following areas:

144 (a) The number and percentage of individuals with open
145 records who receive services.

146 (b) The number of individuals with open records who
147 receive postsecondary workforce education pursuant to s.
148 1004.02(25).

149 (c) The number of persons earning CAPE industry
150 certifications and CAPE postsecondary industry certifications
151 approved pursuant to s. 1008.44.

152 (d) The number and percentage of cases closed due to the
153 employment of the eligible individual.

154 (e) The proportion of full-time equivalent positions in
155 the division devoted to administration.

156 (3) The division shall report activities and results of

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157 | the pilot program to the Governor, the President of the Senate,
158 | and the Speaker of the House of Representatives by December 31
159 | of each year.

160 | Section 5. This act shall take effect July 1, 2015.