

Chapter 331

(House Bill 660)

AN ACT concerning

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

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

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

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

(b) The Commission consists of the following members:

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

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

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

~~(i) (1) one parent of a student who reported a favorable outcome after working with the Division of ~~Rehabilitative~~ Rehabilitation Services;~~

~~(ii) (2) one parent of a student who reported an unfavorable outcome after working with the Division of ~~Rehabilitative~~ Rehabilitation Services;~~

~~(iii) (3) one individual who reported a favorable outcome after working with the Division of ~~Rehabilitative~~ Rehabilitation Services;~~

~~(iv) (4) one individual who reported an unfavorable outcome after working with the Division of ~~Rehabilitative~~ Rehabilitation Services;~~

~~(v) (5) one individual employed by a local school system as a transition specialist;~~

- ~~(vi)~~ (6) one individual employed by a private school as a transition specialist;
- ~~(vii)~~ (7) one individual employed by a local school system as a special education teacher;
- ~~(viii)~~ (8) one individual employed by a private school as a special education teacher;
- ~~(ix)~~ (9) one individual employed by the State Department of Education as a transition specialist;
- ~~(x)~~ ~~(10) one individual employed by the Division of Rehabilitative Rehabilitation Services with experience participating in individualized education program team meetings;~~
- (10) *one representative from the Department of Disabilities;*
- ~~(xi)~~ (11) one individual employed by the Division of ~~Rehabilitative Rehabilitation~~ Services with experience working in the Division's training programs;
- ~~(xii)~~ (12) the State Coordinator for Autism Strategy;
- ~~(xiii)~~ (13) one community behavioral health provider who provides vocational programs and employment support;
- ~~(xiv)~~ (14) one representative of a residential community and vocational program;
- ~~(xv)~~ (15) one representative of the State Board of Education;
- ~~(xvi)~~ (16) one representative of the Developmental Disabilities Administration;
- ~~(xvii)~~ (17) one representative of the Maryland Association of Nonpublic Special Education Facilities;
- ~~(xviii)~~ (18) one representative of the Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council;
- ~~(xix)~~ (19) one representative of Arc Maryland;
- ~~(xx)~~ (20) one representative of Disability Rights Maryland who:
- ~~(i)~~ (i) is an attorney; and

~~2~~ (ii) has experience working with the Division of ~~Rehabilitative~~ Rehabilitation Services;

~~(xxi)~~ (21) one attorney who:

~~1~~ (i) represents children and young adults with disabilities;
and

~~2~~ (ii) has experience working with the Division of ~~Rehabilitative~~ Rehabilitation Services;

~~(xxii)~~ (22) one representative of a community college; and

~~(xxiii)~~ (23) other members considered necessary by the State Superintendent of Schools.

(c) ~~The Assistant State Superintendent of the Division of Rehabilitative Rehabilitation Services shall chair the~~ Commission shall elect a chair from among its members.

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

(e) A member of the Commission:

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

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

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

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

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

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

(4) methods for improving public-private partnerships to assist more Division of ~~Rehabilitative~~ Rehabilitation Services' clients;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Approved by the Governor, May 12, 2022.