

CHAPTER 129A

VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION

129A.03 Powers and duties.

129A.03 POWERS AND DUTIES.

The commissioner shall:

(a) Develop and administer the long-term sheltered workshops and work activity programs and perform the duties as specified in section 129A.08;

(b) Provide vocational rehabilitation services such as: diagnostic and related services incidental to determination of eligibility for services to be provided, including medical diagnosis and vocational diagnosis; vocational counseling, training and instruction, including personal adjustment training; physical restoration, including corrective surgery, therapeutic treatment, hospitalization and prosthetic devices, all of which shall be obtained from appropriate established agencies; transportation; occupational and business licenses or permits, customary tools and equipment, maintenance, books, supplies and training materials; initial stocks and supplies; placement; acquisition of vending stands or other equipment, initial stocks and supplies for small business enterprises; supervision and management of small business enterprises, merchandising programs or services rendered by severely disabled persons; establishment, improvement, maintenance or extension of public and other nonprofit rehabilitation facilities, centers, workshops, demonstration projects and research. These services shall be provided for handicapped persons in the state whose capacity to earn a living has in any way been destroyed or impaired through industrial accident or otherwise; these persons are entitled to free choice of vendor for any medical or dental services provided under this paragraph;

(c) Formulate plans of cooperation with the commissioner of labor and industry for providing services to workers covered under the workers' compensation act. Those plans are effective only if approved by the governor;

(d) Maintain a contractual relationship with the United States as authorized by the act of congress approved September 1, 1954, known as the "Social Security Amendments of 1954," Public Law 761, Section 221, and the act approved October 30, 1972, known as the Social Security Amendments of 1972, Public Law 92-603, and subsequent amendments. Under the contract, the state will undertake to make determinations referred to in those public laws with respect to all individuals in Minnesota, or with respect to a class or classes of individuals in this state that is designated in the agreement at the state's request. It is the purpose of this relationship to permit the citizens of this state to obtain all benefits available under federal law;

(e) Provide an in-service training program for department employees by paying for its direct costs with state and federal funds;

(f) Conduct research and demonstration projects; provide training and instruction, including establishment and maintenance of research fellowships and traineeships, along with all necessary stipends and allowances; disseminate information to the handicapped and general public; and provide technical assistance relating to vocational rehabilitation;

(g) Receive and disburse pursuant to law money and gifts available from governmental and private sources for the purpose of vocational rehabilitation;

(h) Design all state plans of vocational rehabilitation services required as a condition to the receipt and disbursement of any money available from the federal government;

(i) Cooperate with other public or private agencies or organizations for the purpose of vocational rehabilitation. Money received from school districts, governmental subdivisions, mental health centers or boards, and private nonprofit organizations is appropriated to the commissioner for conducting joint or cooperative vocational rehabilitation programs;

(j) Enter into contractual arrangements with instrumentalities of federal, state, or local government and with private individuals, organizations, agencies or facilities with respect to providing vocational rehabilitation services;

(k) Take other actions required by state and federal legislation relating to vocational rehabilitation and disability determination programs;

(l) Hire staff and arrange services and facilities necessary to perform the duties and powers specified in this section; and

(m) Adopt, amend, suspend or repeal rules necessary to implement or make specific programs that the commissioner by sections 129A.01 to 129A.09 is empowered to administer.

History: 1983 c 312 art 1 s 15