

the event of the absence, death, resignation, or disability of the Commissioner, or in case the office of the Commissioner shall for any cause become vacant, shall have and exercise all the authority, duties, and functions vested by law in the Commissioner. The Director of the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation of the State Department of Education on August 31, 1970, shall hold the office of Deputy Commissioner of Vocational Rehabilitation at the pleasure of the Commissioner of Vocational Rehabilitation. The exercise of all authority, duties, and functions vested in the Vocational Rehabilitation Administration or the Commissioner or Deputy Commissioner of Vocational Rehabilitation by the provisions of this subtitle or by any other laws of this State shall be subject to the authority of the Secretary of Employment and Social Services as set forth in Article 41 of this Code or elsewhere in the laws of Maryland.

136.

The [State Board of Education] Vocational Rehabilitation Administration is hereby authorized and directed (1) to disburse all funds, provided for the rehabilitation of disabled persons; (2) to appoint and fix the compensation of the personnel necessary to administer this chapter; (3) to vocationally rehabilitate, and place in gainful occupations, persons eligible for the benefits of this chapter; (4) to make such rules and regulations as may be necessary for the administration of this chapter; (5) to report annually to the Secretary of Employment and Social Services and to the Governor on the administration of this chapter.

137.

(a) The [State Board of Education] Vocational Rehabilitation Administration and the Workmen's Compensation Commission are hereby empowered and directed to cooperate in the administration of this chapter [; and to formulate a plan of cooperation, to become effective when approved by the Governor]. In order to facilitate the cooperation between these two agencies in the administration of this chapter, the Secretary of Employment and Social Services, with the approval of the Governor, shall appoint a committee, to be known as the Injured Workers' Rehabilitation Committee, to advise the Workmen's Compensation Commission with respect to all phases of rehabilitation of injured workers filing claims for compensation with the Commission, including workers whose claims are ultimately denied or who are held to be not within the coverage of the laws relating to workmen's compensation as set forth in Article 101 of the Annotated Code of Maryland. The Committee shall be part of the Department of Employment and Social Services and shall consist of the following individuals: the chairman of the Workmen's Compensation Commission, the [State Director] Commissioner of Vocational Rehabilitation, or the Deputy Commissioner of Vocational Rehabilitation if designated by the Commissioner, one employee, one employer, a representative of a casualty insurance company, and a registered physician. The Secretary of Employment and Social Services, with the approval of the Governor, shall designate one member of the Committee to serve as chairman. The chairman of the Workmen's Compensation Commission and the [State Director] Commissioner of Vocational Rehabilitation or his designee shall be members of the Committee ex officio [; and the individual presently holding those positions shall serve on the Committee until