

(II) "SUITABLE GAINFUL EMPLOYMENT" MEANS EMPLOYMENT, INCLUDING SELF-EMPLOYMENT, WHICH RESTORES THE INJURED EMPLOYEE, TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE, TO THE LEVEL OF SUPPORT AT THE TIME OF THE INJURY, GIVING DUE CONSIDERATION TO THE EMPLOYEE'S QUALIFICATIONS, INTERESTS, INCENTIVES, PREINJURY EARNINGS, AND FUTURE EARNING CAPACITY; THE NATURE AND EXTENT OF THE INJURY; AND THE CURRENT AND FUTURE CONDITION OF THE LABOR MARKET.

(B) ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 1, 1988, AND THEREAFTER AS DEEMED APPROPRIATE BY THE COMMISSION, ALL PERSONS AND ORGANIZATIONS WHICH PROVIDE VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION UNDER THIS ARTICLE IN THE STATE OF MARYLAND SHALL REGISTER WITH THE COMMISSION USING FORMS PRESCRIBED BY THE COMMISSION. NO COMPENSATION FOR VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION PROVIDED BY PERSONS OR ORGANIZATIONS NOT REGISTERED WITH THE COMMISSION AS REQUIRED BY THIS SUBSECTION SHALL BE PAYABLE UNDER SUBSECTION (C) OF THIS SECTION.

[(a)] (C) When as the result of an injury, an employee is disabled from performing work for which he was previously qualified, he shall be entitled to vocational rehabilitation [as reasonably necessary to restore him to suitable employment]. The employer and insurer shall pay the expenses of the vocational rehabilitation. The Commission shall refer the employee to an appropriate rehabilitation evaluation agency for evaluation of the practicability of, need for, and type of training necessary and appropriate to render the employee fit for a remunerative occupation. Vocational rehabilitation training shall not extend for a period of more than [twenty-four (24)] 24 months.

[(b)] (D) The Commission, upon receiving a report from the rehabilitation evaluation agency, shall promptly notify all parties of the contents of the report. Any party in interest may within [ten (10)] 10 days from the date of issuance of the report, request a hearing to controvert the report. At the hearing, the parties may present additional evidence as necessary. Following the hearing, the Commission shall make a decision accepting or rejecting in whole or in part the vocational rehabilitation agency report and issue an appropriate order regarding vocational rehabilitation of the employee.

[(c)] (E) During the period an employee is undergoing vocational rehabilitation training, he shall be entitled to compensation as if he were temporarily totally disabled.

[(d)] (F) Any employee undergoing vocational rehabilitation training in the course of which he is required to live at a location other than his [home,] HOME shall also be entitled to [receive] RECEIVE, in addition to the temporary total compensation provided for herein, sufficient funds to adequately maintain [himself] THE EMPLOYEE during the period of vocational rehabilitation training, but in no case to exceed [forty dollars]