

(b) (I) On or before January 1, 1988, and thereafter as deemed appropriate by the Commission, all persons and organizations which provide vocational rehabilitation SERVICES 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.]

(II) PERSONS AND ORGANIZATIONS NOT REGISTERED WITH THE COMMISSION AS REQUIRED BY SUBPARAGRAPH (I) OF THIS PARAGRAPH SHALL NOT RECEIVE PAYMENT FOR PROVIDING VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION SERVICES.

(c) (I) When as the result of an injury, an employee is disabled from performing work for which [he was] previously qualified, [he] THE EMPLOYEE shall be entitled to vocational rehabilitation SERVICES.

(II) VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION TRAINING SHALL NOT EXTEND FOR A PERIOD OF MORE THAN 24 MONTHS.

(III) The employer and insurer shall pay the expenses of the EMPLOYEE'S vocational ASSESSMENT AND VOCATIONAL rehabilitation SERVICES.

(IV) The Commission shall:

1. [refer] REFER the employee to an appropriate VOCATIONAL 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 24 months.] PROVIDER; AND

2. OBTAIN FROM THE PROVIDER A VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION PLAN THAT INCLUDES:

A. A VOCATIONAL ASSESSMENT; AND

B. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION SERVICES REASONABLY NECESSARY TO RETURN THE INJURED EMPLOYEE TO SUITABLE GAINFUL EMPLOYMENT.

(d) (I) The Commission, upon receiving [a report from the rehabilitation evaluation agency] A VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION PLAN FROM THE APPROPRIATE VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION PROVIDER, shall promptly notify all parties of the contents of the [report] PLAN.