

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article - Education

21-302.1.

(A) THERE IS AN EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM FUND IN THE DIVISION OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION IN THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.

(B) FUNDS FOR THE EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM FUND ESTABLISHED UNDER THIS SECTION SHALL BE INCLUDED IN THE BUDGET OF THE DIVISION OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION IN THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.

(C) A COMMUNITY REHABILITATION AND EMPLOYMENT AGENCY ACCREDITED BY THE DIVISION OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION IN THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IS ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE FUNDS AVAILABLE IN THE EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM FUND ESTABLISHED UNDER THIS SECTION.

(D) THE DIVISION OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION MAY CONTRACT WITH NONPROFIT REHABILITATION AND EMPLOYMENT AGENCIES TO PROVIDE THE FUNDS ESTABLISHED UNDER THIS SECTION FOR:

- (1) SUPPORTED EMPLOYMENT PLACEMENTS;
- (2) COMPETITIVE WORK PLACEMENTS;
- (3) TRANSITIONAL EMPLOYMENT; OR
- (4) SHELTERED EMPLOYMENT.

(E) THE DIVISION OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS TO IMPLEMENT THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SECTION.

21-303.

(a) There is a Division of Vocational Rehabilitation in the State Department of Education.

(b) The State Board of Education shall:

(1) Disburse all funds provided, AND ADMINISTER ALL PROGRAMS ESTABLISHED UNDER THIS SUBTITLE, for the rehabilitation of disabled individuals;

(2) Appoint and fix the compensation of the personnel necessary to administer this subtitle;

(3) Vocationally rehabilitate, and place in gainful occupations, individuals eligible for the benefits of this subtitle;