

HOUSE BILL 901 – VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION SERVICES

BILL SPONSOR(S)	Representative Ponder and Higher Education and Career Readiness Subcommittee
EFFECTIVE DATE(S)	July 1, 2020
STATUTE(S)	Amends sections (ss.) 413.20, 413.207, 413.23, 413.30, 413.301, 413.405 and 1003.5716, Florida Statutes (F.S.)

SUMMARY

Revises the duties of the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) to describe the provision of Pre-Employment Transition Services to students with disabilities within specific timelines. Amends the Able Trust Board membership and changes recommended by the Florida Department of Education’s (department) Office of Inspector General (OIG).

HIGHLIGHTS

- Federal law changed in 2014 to require VR to provide specific Pre-Employment Transition Services to students with disabilities. The services have been added to statute to describe the services VR provides, including specific timelines.
- The *Five-Year Performance Report* requirements were modified to add information about services provided to youth and students with disabilities, match requirements and expenditure information.
- Revises requirements for individual educational plans (IEP) for students with disabilities to include a statement of measurable postsecondary education and career goals concerning Pre-Employment Transition Services.
- Revises The Able Trust statute to include the Director of VR, or designee, as an ex officio board member and revises the board member terms to two 3-year terms or until resignation or removal for cause. Additionally, the bill includes recommendations by the department’s OIG to calculate the cap on administrative costs based on actual expenditures.
- Pre-Employment Transition Services, if appropriate, must be added to the statement of measurable long-term postsecondary education and career goals in the IEP for a student who will be 16 years of age or older when the IEP is in effect, or for a student who is younger, if determined appropriate by the parent and IEP team.

GENERAL IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE

JULY 1, 2020	The bill becomes effective
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2020 LEGISLATIVE REVIEW

JULY 1, 2020

VR will continue to provide Pre-Employment Transition Services to students with disabilities within the timeframes and requirements of the bill

JULY 1, 2020

The Able Trust will calculate administrative costs based on actual expenditures within the fiscal year according to the statutory definition

DECEMBER 1, 2020

VR will produce the required *Five-Year Performance Report*, including new data elements