



Agency Legislative Proposal - 2015 Session

Document Name (e.g. OPM1015Budget.doc; OTG1015Policy.doc):

DORS 2015 Legislative Proposal - #1 of 1

(If submitting an electronically, please label with date, agency, and title of proposal – 092611_SDE_TechRevisions)

State Agency: Department of Rehabilitation Services (DORS)

Liaison: Andrew Norton

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Lead agency division requesting this proposal: Bureau of Rehabilitation Services (BRS)

Agency Analyst/Drafter of Proposal: David Doukas - Andrew Norton

Title of Proposal - An Act Concerning a Technical Change to the Laws Concerning the Department of Rehabilitation Services

Statutory Reference - Conn. Gen. Stat. Sec. 17b-666

Proposal Summary -

The bill would allow the agency to use a small portion (5%) of the state funding for the Employment Opportunities Program (EOP) to direct-charge administrative overhead costs. While we believe that this is the proper course to take, the statute does not expressly allow such cost allocations. The EOP account has been historically used 100% for purchase of services but there are oversight and overhead expenses associated with the program. These overhead costs are not high - less than one position - but funding for these costs must be pulled from other accounts and therefore other agency efforts are inappropriately depleted. The alternative to this proposed option is to ask for additional funding and expansion in our budget to appropriately provide for these staffing oversight expenses. Under this proposal, we will be more properly allocating these expenses directly to the EOP program's Other Current Expenses (OCE) line.

Please attach a copy of fully drafted bill (required for review)

PROPOSAL BACKGROUND

- Reason for Proposal

Please consider the following, if applicable:

- (1) Have there been changes in federal/state/local laws and regulations that make this legislation necessary? **No**
- (2) Has this proposal or something similar been implemented in other states? If yes, what is the outcome(s)? **Unknown**
- (3) Have certain constituencies called for this action? **No**
- (4) What would happen if this was not enacted in law this session? **The agency would continue to fund these EOP overhead costs from other accounts instead of the relevant EOP account.**



- **Origin of Proposal** **New Proposal** **Resubmission**

If this is a resubmission, please share:

- (1) *What was the reason this proposal did not pass, or if applicable, was not included in the Administration's package?*
- (2) *Have there been negotiations/discussions during or after the previous legislative session to improve this proposal?*
- (3) *Who were the major stakeholders/advocates/legislators involved in the previous work on this legislation?*
- (4) *What was the last action taken during the past legislative session?*

PROPOSAL IMPACT

- **Agencies Affected** (please list for each affected agency)

Agency Name: No other agency is affected. Agency Contact (name, title, phone): Date Contacted: Approve of Proposal <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> Talks Ongoing
Summary of Affected Agency's Comments Not applicable.
Will there need to be further negotiation? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO

- **Fiscal Impact** (please include the proposal section that causes the fiscal impact and the anticipated impact)

Municipal (please include any municipal mandate that can be found within legislation) None.
State – None. Under the proposal, the agency will move dollars from one account to another to facilitate more appropriate allotment of expenditures but the agency would not spend more dollars. In fact, it will become unnecessary for the agency to request additional Personal Service (PS) dollars from the Office of Policy &



Management to correct the situation.

Federal – None.

Additional notes on fiscal impact

- **Policy and Programmatic Impacts** (Please specify the proposal section associated with the impact)

Insert fully drafted bill here

DORS Legislative Proposal #1 - 2015 Session

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

Sec. 17b-666. Employment opportunities program for underserved persons with significant disabilities. Regulations. (a) The Department of Rehabilitation Services may receive state and federal funds to administer, within available appropriations, an employment opportunities program to serve individuals with the most significant disabilities who do not meet the eligibility requirements of supported employment programs administered by the Departments of Developmental Services and Mental Health and Addiction Services. For the purposes of this section, “individuals with the most significant disabilities” means those individuals who (1) have serious employment limitations in a total of three or more functional areas including, but not limited to, mobility, communication, self-care, interpersonal skills, work tolerance or work skills, or (2) will require significant ongoing disability-related services on the job in order to maintain employment.

(b) The employment opportunities program shall provide extended services, as defined in 34 CFR 361.5(b)(19), that are necessary for individuals with the most significant disabilities to maintain supported employment. Such services shall include coaching and other related services



that allow participants to obtain and maintain employment and maximize economic self-sufficiency.

(c) Not more than five per cent of the amount appropriated in any fiscal year for the purposes of this section may be used by the Department of Rehabilitation Services to provide administration relating to the implementation of this section.

(d) The Department of Rehabilitation Services shall adopt regulations, in accordance with chapter 54, to implement the provisions of this section.