

[REPUBLIC ACT NO. 1179, June 19, 1954]

AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR THE PROMOTION OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION OF THE BLIND AND OTHER HANDICAPPED PERSONS AND THEIR RETURN TO CIVIL EMPLOYMENT.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

SECTION 1. This Act may be cited as Vocational Rehabilitation Act.

OBJECTIVES

SEC. 2. (a) To provide for the promotion of vocational training for the blind and other persons disabled by natural and/or accidental causes resulting in job handicap in the form of physical or mental impairment and their subsequent return from helplessness to competence; from dependency to self-sufficiency; from hopelessness to active participating and contributing members of society;

(b) To prepare such disabled persons for suitable employment so as to place them on the right jobs suitable to their abilities and talents;

(c) To train them to be able to take their rightful place in the economic and social activities of the country; and

(d) To make available to such persons vocational rehabilitation services as a legal right.

VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION OFFICE

SEC. 3. *Creation of.*—In order to ensure the most effective scheme of vocational rehabilitation of the blind and other handicapped persons to implement the social welfare program of the government in the amelioration of this deprived class of society, there is hereby established a Vocational rehabilitation Office hereinafter referred as the Office. The Office shall be under the executive supervision and control of the Social Welfare Administrator and shall be headed by a chief who shall be referred to as Supervisor of the Vocational Rehabilitation Office. The said Supervisor shall be appointed by the Social Welfare Administrator and shall receive a compensation of five thousand four hundred pesos *per annum*.

POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE ADMINISTRATOR

SEC. 4. Under this Act, the Social Welfare Administrator shall:

- a. Designate the Vocational Rehabilitation Office as the sole agency for the administration, supervision and control of the vocational rehabilitation program;
- b. Formulate the program, policies and methods in carrying out the work to render any or all services for the blind and handicapped persons;

- c. Provide that the vocational rehabilitation program be made available only to classes of employable individuals defined under this Act;
- d. Appoint qualified and technical personnel to carry out the work of the Vocational Rehabilitation Office as provided herein;
- e. Appoint, subject to civil service rules, such staff members as maybe necessary and proper to carry out the provisions of this Act. Said staff members shall be composed of public officials whose status and conditions of service are such that they are independent of changes of government and of improper external influences, and recruited with sole regard to their qualifications; and that such persons shall be free from political domination and influence, and that subject to the needs of the service, .ey shall be assured of stability of employment in keeping with the highest standards of personal administration.
- f. Promulgate rules and regulations governing the administration of this Act; and exercise such powers and delegate such of these powers, except the making of rules and regulations, as he finds necessary in carrying out the purposes of this Act.

THE VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION PROGRAM

SEC. 5. To effect and facilitate rehabilitation of disabled individuals, the Office shall adopt and maintain a plan, to be known as Vocational Rehabilitation Plan, which shall be as follows:

- a. *Early start.*—The Office shall take care of the prompt location of the blind and handicapped either by correspondence or other means, so that rehabilitation may begin before he is unduly subjected to the disintegrating effects of idleness and hopelessness.
- b. *Rehabilitation diagnosis.*—The clinic of the Office shall subject each individual to medical examination, personal interviews and tests of aptitudes and interests with a view to meeting his problems and needs, discovering the nature and extent of his disability, and determining the type of work he might best perform. These medical examinations which include not only general medical examination but also specialist and laboratory examinations, may also be secured from hospitals and other allied government agencies according as each individual case may require.
- c. *Counseling and guidance.*—Each individual shall be given advice and made to understand by the counselor designated by the Office for each individual of his assets and liabilities, the causes of his problems and the steps necessary to correct these difficulties so as to enable him to adjust to his handicaps and select the type of job fitted to his abilities.
- d. *Medical service.*—Physical restoration, when needed to remove or reduce disabilities shall be furnished and secured for the individual by the Office or by other allied government agencies on behalf of the client.
- e. *Vocational training.*—Having selected a specific job goal through the help and advice of the counselor, the Office shall furnish the disabled the necessary training education necessary to fit them for the chosen work
- f. *Auxiliary service.*—The Office shall provide transportation books, other training materials, occupational equipment and licenses where necessary during the period of vocational rehabilitation.
- g. *Placement.*—The Office shall secure for each individual employment best suited to his capacity and talents and for which he is trained.

- h. *Follow-up.*—The Office shall conduct and follow-up the individual's job performance for a reasonable time to make whatever adjustments may be necessary, or to provide further medical, surgical, and psychiatric care if needed, or to supplement training if required.

PERSONAL STANDARD

SEC. 6. *General requirements of personnel of the Office.*— The officers and staff members of the Office should have a general knowledge of the adjustment and vocational training for the blind and other disabled persons, and a knowledge of all the services, both public and private, available to the blind and other disabled persons; and must be conversant in the casework techniques incident to the employment problems of the blind and other handicapped persons.

DUTIES AND POWERS OF THE SUPERVISOR OF THE VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION OFFICE

SEC. 7. *It shall be the duty of the Supervisor.*—

- a. To supervise and coordinate all rehabilitation services to the blind and other handicapped persons.
- b. Over-all supervision of all the disabled persons undergoing training in the Adjustment Center.
- c. To advise the different blind and other handicapped groups and associations in their activities for self-help.
- d. To keep tract of the latest progress in rehabilitation of the blind abroad and to direct efforts for the application of such which may be applied to the disabled persons in the Philippines.
- e. Whenever possible, to render vocational information self-inventory service and counseling service to the blind and other handicapped persons to help determine decisions and plans to improve their lot
- f. To supervise and arrange placement of training of the blind and other handicapped persons to the right job either in sheltered workshop, self-employment, or employment with business or industrial or agricultural enterprises.
- g. To help maintain public relations especially among the local, civic, religious, and welfare agencies as those abroad.
- h. To help promote cordial relationships and healthy recreational activities among the organizations of the blind and other handicapped persons.
- i. To perform such duties as may be assigned to him by the Social Welfare Administrator from time to time.

ADJUSTMENT AND TRAINING CENTER PROGRAM

SEC. 8. To establish immediately an Adjustment and Training Center for the disabled persons with the following characteristics:

1. A concentrated, individualized program for each client.
2. The nucleus, at least, of a full-time staff. This nucleus shall consist of a rehabilitation specialist who shall act as supervisor of the center; qualified vocational counselors and instructors for the work projects and a property clerk.