Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE
EXECUTIVE ORDER

SUBJECT			NUMBER
Governor's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped			1981-13
DATE	DISTRIBUTION	BY DIRECTION OF	
October 19, 1981	B	Dick Thornburgh, Governor	

WHEREAS, it is essential that the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania make every effort to provide employment opportunities for all of its citizens; and

WHEREAS, employable handicapped persons represent a substantial and highly productive economic resource *to* the Commonwealth as well as to the entire nation; and

WHEREAS, equal employment opportunity for all citizens is a major priority of this Administration; and

WHEREAS, many individuals with physical and mental disabilities need assistance in reaching their maximum employment potential; and

WHEREAS, there is a continuing need to impress upon all employers the productivity and corresponding cost-effectiveness of hiring qualified handicapped individuals; and

WHEREAS, the objectives and goals outlined above are basic responsibilities of the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, Department of Labor and Industry:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Dick Thornburgh, Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and other laws, do hereby assign as part of that Office the Governor's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped.

1. **Objectives of the Committee.**

a. **To develop a better understanding by the handicapped of rehabilitation, training, and placement services available to them and to encourage them to** use these services.

b. **To promote increased employment, on a year-round basis, of handicapped workers, as well as the retention and advancement of those already employed.**

c. **To promote a better public appreciation of the outstanding performance of physically** handicapped **workers when properly placed.**

d. **To encourage and assist local committees on employment of the handicapped to carry out programs which will make these objectives effective.**

2. Composition of the Committee.

a. The Secretary of Labor and Industry shall be Chairperson of the Committee. The Chairperson shall appoint an Executive Secretary who shall report directly to the Chairperson.

b. The balance of the membership shall be composed of representatives of agencies and organizations operating within this Commonwealth which are interested in any phase of service to the physically, mentally, or emotionally handicapped, such as governmental, business, labor, veterans, medical, health, welfare, educational, informational, fraternal, and religious groups, and also other individuals who are interested in the problems of the handicapped as well as handicapped individuals.

c. Current committee members may retain their status if they so choose. New members may be elected to the State Committee by a majority of the membership attending the spring or fall meetings. The Executive Committee shall be elected annually in the same manner.

3. Functions of the Committee.

a. To coordinate activities for promotion of employment of the handicapped at the state level. This will include serving as liaison between the President's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped and local committees across the state.

b. To lend support to local committees on employment of the handicapped in initiating meetings and conferences designed to create greater awareness of the abilities of handicapped individuals and bring them together with employers.

c. To serve as a resource to employers, labor unions, private social agencies, and handicapped individuals on legislation pertaining to the rights and responsibilities of all concerned in regard to employment and employment related factors such as accessibility.

d. To serve as a resource to handicapped individuals in providing information on governmental services available to help them gain self-sufficiency through employment.

e. Disseminate appropriate informational materials on various disabilities in order to create a better understanding of the disability and, through this understanding, a greater awareness of the abilities of persons with such handicaps.

f. Sponsor appropriate contests among students that will give this important group a positive awareness of the handicapped.

g. Recognize outstanding achievements in employment and in hiring handicapped individuals through the presentation of awards in these areas at an annual conference.

4. Meetings of the Committee.

a. The Committee shall hold semiannual meetings in the spring and fall of each year for dissemination of information, exchange of ideas, and planning. Officers will be elected at the annual spring meeting.

b. Special meetings may be called as necessary by the Chairperson. If any member feels a special meeting is necessary, a request should be made to the Chairperson.

5. Cooperation by State Agencies.

All agencies under my jurisdiction shall cooperate fully with the Committee and the Chairperson and shall provide such assistance and information as needed by them to carry out their functions in an effective manner.

6. This order shall take effect immediately.