

By: Zaffirini

S.B. No. 1217

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

2 relating to the powers and duties of the Texas Rehabilitation
3 Commission.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

5 SECTION 1. Section 111.052, Human Resources Code, is
6 amended to read as follows:

7 Sec. 111.052. GENERAL FUNCTIONS. (a) The commission
8 shall, to the extent of resources available and priorities
9 established by the board, provide rehabilitation services directly
10 or through public or private resources to individuals determined by
11 the commission to be eligible for the services under a vocational
12 rehabilitation program[~~, an extended rehabilitation services~~
13 ~~program,~~] or other program established to provide rehabilitative
14 services.

15 (b) In carrying out the purposes of this chapter, the
16 commission may:

17 (1) cooperate with other departments, agencies,
18 political subdivisions, and institutions, both public and private,
19 in providing the services authorized by this chapter to eligible
20 individuals, in studying the problems involved, and in planning,
21 establishing, developing, and providing necessary or desirable
22 programs, facilities, and services, including those jointly
23 administered with state agencies;

24 (2) enter into reciprocal agreements with other

1 states;

2 (3) establish or construct rehabilitation facilities
3 and workshops, contract with or provide grants to agencies,
4 organizations, or individuals as necessary to implement this
5 chapter, make contracts or other arrangements with public and other
6 nonprofit agencies, organizations, or institutions for the
7 establishment of workshops and rehabilitation facilities, and
8 operate facilities for carrying out the purposes of this chapter;

9 (4) conduct research and compile statistics relating
10 to the provision of services to or the need for services by disabled
11 individuals;

12 (5) provide for the establishment, supervision,
13 management, and control of small business enterprises to be
14 operated by individuals with significant disabilities where their
15 operation will be improved through the management and supervision
16 of the commission;

17 (6) contract with schools, hospitals, private
18 industrial firms, and other agencies and with doctors, nurses,
19 technicians, and other persons for training, physical restoration,
20 transportation, and other rehabilitation services; and

21 (7) assess the statewide need for services necessary
22 to prepare students with disabilities for a successful transition
23 to employment, establish collaborative relationships with each
24 school district with education service centers to the maximum
25 extent possible within available resources, and develop strategies
26 to assist vocational rehabilitation counselors in identifying and
27 reaching students in need of transition planning [~~contract with a~~

1 ~~public or private agency to provide and pay for rehabilitative~~
2 ~~services under the extended rehabilitation services program,~~
3 ~~including alternative sheltered employment or community integrated~~
4 ~~employment for a person participating in the program].~~

5 SECTION 2. Sections 111.002(7), 111.0525(a), and 111.073,
6 Human Resources Code, are repealed.

7 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2003.