

SUBCHAPTER IV—NATIONAL COUNCIL ON  
DISABILITY

CODIFICATION

Title IV of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, comprising this subchapter, was originally enacted by Pub. L. 93-112, title IV, Sept. 26, 1973, 87 Stat. 385, and amended by Pub. L. 93-516, Dec. 7, 1974, 88 Stat. 1617; Pub. L. 93-651, Nov. 21, 1974, 89 Stat. 2-3; Pub. L. 94-230, Mar. 15, 1976, 90 Stat. 211; Pub. L. 95-602, Nov. 6, 1978, 92 Stat. 2955; Pub. L. 98-221, Feb. 22, 1984, 98 Stat. 17; Pub. L. 99-506, Oct. 21, 1986, 100 Stat. 1807; Pub. L. 100-630, Nov. 7, 1988, 102 Stat. 3289; Pub. L. 102-52, June 6, 1991, 105 Stat. 260; Pub. L. 102-569, Oct. 29, 1992, 106 Stat. 4344; Pub. L. 103-73, Aug. 11, 1993, 107 Stat. 718; Pub. L. 104-66, Dec. 21, 1995, 109 Stat. 707. Title IV is shown herein, however, as having been added by Pub. L. 105-220, title IV, § 407, Aug. 7, 1998, 112 Stat. 1198, without reference to those intervening amendments because of the extensive revision of title IV by Pub. L. 105-220.

**§ 780. Establishment of National Council on Disability**

**(a) Membership; purpose**

(1)(A) There is established within the Federal Government a National Council on Disability (hereinafter in this subchapter referred to as the “National Council”), which shall be composed of fifteen members appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate.

(B) The President shall select members of the National Council after soliciting recommendations from representatives of—

- (i) organizations representing a broad range of individuals with disabilities; and
- (ii) organizations interested in individuals with disabilities.

(C) The members of the National Council shall be individuals with disabilities, parents or guardians of individuals with disabilities, or other individuals who have substantial knowledge or experience relating to disability policy or programs. The members of the National Council shall be appointed so as to be representative of individuals with disabilities, national organizations concerned with individuals with disabilities, providers and administrators of services to individuals with disabilities, individuals engaged in conducting medical or scientific research relating to individuals with disabilities, business concerns, and labor organizations. A majority of the members of the National Council shall be individuals with disabilities. The members of the National Council shall be broadly representative of minority and other individuals and groups.

(2) The purpose of the National Council is to promote policies, programs, practices, and procedures that—

- (A) guarantee equal opportunity for all individuals with disabilities, regardless of the nature or severity of the disability; and
- (B) empower individuals with disabilities to achieve economic self-sufficiency, independent living, and inclusion and integration into all aspects of society.

**(b) Term of office**

(1) Each member of the National Council shall serve for a term of 3 years, except that the terms of service of the members initially appointed after November 6, 1978, shall be (as spec-

ified by the President) for such fewer number of years as will provide for the expiration of terms on a staggered basis.

(2)(A) No member of the National Council may serve more than two consecutive full terms beginning on the date of commencement of the first full term on the Council. Members may serve after the expiration of their terms until their successors have taken office.

(B) As used in this paragraph, the term “full term” means a term of 3 years.

(3) Any member appointed to fill a vacancy occurring before the expiration of the term for which such member’s predecessor was appointed shall be appointed only for the remainder of such term.

**(c) Chairperson; meetings**

The President shall designate the Chairperson from among the members appointed to the National Council. The National Council shall meet at the call of the Chairperson, but not less often than four times each year.

**(d) Quorum; vacancies**

Eight members of the National Council shall constitute a quorum and any vacancy in the National Council shall not affect its power to function.

(Pub. L. 93-112, title IV, § 400, as added Pub. L. 105-220, title IV, § 407, Aug. 7, 1998, 112 Stat. 1198.)

PRIOR PROVISIONS

A prior section 780, Pub. L. 93-112, title IV, § 400, as added Pub. L. 95-602, title I, § 117, Nov. 6, 1978, 92 Stat. 2977; amended Pub. L. 98-221, title I, § 141(a), Feb. 22, 1984, 98 Stat. 26; Pub. L. 99-506, title I, § 103(d)(2)(C), title V, § 501, title X, § 1001(e), Oct. 21, 1986, 100 Stat. 1810, 1828, 1843; Pub. L. 100-630, title II, § 205(b), Nov. 7, 1988, 102 Stat. 3310; Pub. L. 102-569, title I, § 102(p)(26), title IV, § 401, Oct. 29, 1992, 106 Stat. 4360, 4421, related to establishment of the National Council on Disability, prior to the general amendment of this subchapter by Pub. L. 105-220.

Another prior section 780, Pub. L. 93-112, title IV, § 400, Sept. 26, 1973, 87 Stat. 385, related to general administrative powers of Secretary under this chapter, prior to repeal by Pub. L. 95-602, § 117.

**§ 780a. Independent status of National Council on the Handicapped**

**(1) Council as independent agency within Federal Government**

Effective on February 22, 1984, the National Council on the Handicapped shall be an independent agency within the Federal Government and shall not be an agency within the Department of Education or any other department or agency of the United States.

**(2) Transfer of functions to Council Chairman**

There are transferred to the Chairman of the National Council on the Handicapped all functions relating to the Council which were vested in the Secretary of Education on the day before February 22, 1984. The Chairman of the National Council on the Handicapped shall continue to exercise all the functions under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 [29 U.S.C. 701 et seq.] or any other law or authority which the Chairman was performing before February 22, 1984.

**(3) Changes in statutory and other references**

References in any statute, reorganization plan, Executive order, regulation, or other offi-

cial document or proceeding to the Department of Education or the Secretary of Education with respect to functions or activities relating to the National Council on the Handicapped shall be deemed to refer to the National Council on the Handicapped or the Chairman of the National Council on the Handicapped, respectively.

(Pub. L. 98-221, title I, §141(b), Feb. 22, 1984, 98 Stat. 26.)

#### REFERENCES IN TEXT

The Rehabilitation Act of 1973, referred to in par. (2), is Pub. L. 93-112, Sept. 26, 1973, 87 Stat. 355, as amended, which is classified generally to this chapter (§701 et seq.). For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 701 of this title and Tables.

#### CODIFICATION

Section was enacted as part of the Rehabilitation Amendments of 1984, and not as part of Rehabilitation Act of 1973 which comprises this chapter.

#### CHANGE OF NAME

The National Council on the Handicapped was established by former section 780 of this title and was redesignated the National Council on Disability by an amendment to that section by Pub. L. 100-630, title II, §205(b), Nov. 7, 1988, 102 Stat. 3310.

### § 781. Duties of National Council

#### (a) In general

The National Council shall—

(1) provide advice to the Director with respect to the policies and conduct of the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research, including ways to improve research concerning individuals with disabilities and the methods of collecting and disseminating findings of such research;

(2) provide advice to the Commissioner with respect to the policies of and conduct of the Rehabilitation Services Administration;

(3) advise the President, the Congress, the Commissioner, the appropriate Assistant Secretary of the Department of Education, and the Director of the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research on the development of the programs to be carried out under this chapter;

(4) provide advice regarding priorities for the activities of the Interagency Disability Coordinating Council and review the recommendations of such Council for legislative and administrative changes to ensure that such recommendations are consistent with the purposes of the Council to promote the full integration, independence, and productivity of individuals with disabilities;

(5) review and evaluate on a continuing basis—

(A) policies, programs, practices, and procedures concerning individuals with disabilities conducted or assisted by Federal departments and agencies, including programs established or assisted under this chapter or under the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000 [42 U.S.C. 15001 et seq.]; and

(B) all statutes and regulations pertaining to Federal programs which assist such individuals with disabilities;

in order to assess the effectiveness of such policies, programs, practices, procedures, statutes, and regulations in meeting the needs of individuals with disabilities;

(6) assess the extent to which such policies, programs, practices, and procedures facilitate or impede the promotion of the policies set forth in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of section 780(a)(2) of this title;

(7) gather information about the implementation, effectiveness, and impact of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.);

(8) make recommendations to the President, the Congress, the Secretary, the Director of the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research, and other officials of Federal agencies or other Federal entities, respecting ways to better promote the policies set forth in section 780(a)(2) of this title;

(9) provide to the Congress on a continuing basis advice, recommendations, legislative proposals, and any additional information that the National Council or the Congress deems appropriate; and

(10) review and evaluate on a continuing basis new and emerging disability policy issues affecting individuals with disabilities at the Federal, State, and local levels, and in the private sector, including the need for and coordination of adult services, access to personal assistance services, school reform efforts and the impact of such efforts on individuals with disabilities, access to health care, and policies that operate as disincentives for the individuals to seek and retain employment.

#### (b) Annual reports

(1) Not later than October 31, 1998, and annually thereafter, the National Council shall prepare and submit to the President and the appropriate committees of the Congress a report entitled “National Disability Policy: A Progress Report”.

(2) The report shall assess the status of the Nation in achieving the policies set forth in section 780(a)(2) of this title, with particular focus on the new and emerging issues impacting on the lives of individuals with disabilities. The report shall present, as appropriate, available data on health, housing, employment, insurance, transportation, recreation, training, prevention, early intervention, and education. The report shall include recommendations for policy change.

(3) In determining the issues to focus on and the findings, conclusions, and recommendations to include in the report, the National Council shall seek input from the public, particularly individuals with disabilities, representatives of organizations representing a broad range of individuals with disabilities, and organizations and agencies interested in individuals with disabilities.

#### (c) Report describing barriers

(1) Not later than December 31, 1999, the Council shall prepare a report describing the barriers in Federal assistive technology policy to increasing the availability of and access to assistive technology devices and assistive technology services for individuals with disabilities.