

HB 699 -- Workforce Transition Services

Sponsor: Grisamore

This bill requires, by September 1, 2013, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to establish a work group to assess the available resources that youth with disabilities need for effective work experiences. The work group must review all interagency coordination of services for employer-matching services to ensure that the services adequately meet the needs of youth and young adults with disabilities who seek employment and need job placement assistance. The goal of the work group must be to evaluate the current efforts and available resources and to promote the involvement of stakeholders when planning and implementing services to provide successful transitions to employment, lifelong learning, and quality of life. The work group must focus on secondary students with disabilities, adults with disabilities, and others who experience barriers to successfully completing school. The work group must assess the strengths and where improvements need to be made regarding transition services, instruction, and experiences that reinforce core curriculum concepts and skills that lead to gainful employment. It must determine if any additional state partnerships through nonfinancial interagency agreements are necessary to enhance the employment potential of individuals with disabilities. The work group must focus on developing careers for these youth to prevent economic and social dependence on the resources of state and community agencies.

The department must submit recommendations based on the findings of the work group to the General Assembly prior to January 1, 2014. The work group members will be chosen and administered by the Commissioner of Education within the department and must utilize existing state agency and community personnel and human resources.

The provisions of the bill expire on January 1, 2014.