



The Fate of Disability Service Boards in Hampton Roads

Shernita L. Bethea
Housing/Human Services Manager
Hampton Roads Planning District Commission
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Why are we here?

- Due to State budget cuts, Governor Kaine will reallocate \$519,362 used to support administrative functions of the Disability Service Boards (DSBs) to the department's Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) program. This will eliminate all funds provided to DSBs used for administrative functions.
- Appropriation Act language has been included to override the mandate for localities to establish and maintain DSBs.

History of the DSB's role in Hampton Roads

- Created in 1992 by the General Assembly in an effort to place decision-making and planning for physical and sensory disabled persons in the hands of the local entities as opposed to the state level.
- The Hampton Roads Region is currently served by three DSBs: Western Tidewater, Peninsula, and South Hampton Roads.

Current Duties

- Develop and implement an assessment of local needs and priorities and make findings available for public comments.
- Administer grant funds from DRS for local projects.
- Provide information and referrals to local government regarding the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).
- Exchange information with other local boards regarding services and best practices in the delivery of services.
- Provide advice and assistance to local government entities upon request.

Staff Recommendation

Explore the feasibility of a Regional Disabilities Taskforce that would encompass representatives from all participating jurisdictions as well as consumers. With HRPDC guidance, this taskforce could:

- Meet on a quarterly basis to discuss best practices and the needs of the region.
- Continue to address ADA and best practices concerns.
- Become a recipient of the new VADSB Local Government Employment Awareness Grant Overview under the Economic Stimulus Act.

Comments