

AMENDMENT EXPLAINED

Our amendment is written as a second section to title V. There are good reasons for this. The Public Welfare Administration which will administer this title as it is written, and the Vocational Rehabilitation Administration are companion programs in the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare. They carry on cooperative programs at the State and local levels. Many of the projects are concerned with the rehabilitation of physically and mentally impaired parents and guardians of needy children. Disability is a factor in such dependency in at least one-fourth of these families.

The amendment authorizes the Director of the Office of Economic Opportunity to transfer funds to the Secretary of the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare for the specific purpose of extending and improving vocational rehabilitation services to handicapped people under section 3 of the Vocational Rehabilitation Act. This is a special project program. All projects must be identifiable and must provide for a new or extended activity. The section appears to be tailor made for use in implementing the purposes of H.R. 10440.

The amendment provides that funds will be allotted to the States on the basis of criteria determined by the Secretary to be most appropriate to assure maximum contribution to the purposes of the legislation. The Federal Government would pay 100 percent of the cost of the projects, as is provided for in the other section of title V. Projects will be initiated at the State level.

The individuals to be served will have some kind of identifiable physical and/or mental disability, but a substantial component of their total disability may be the result of economic and cultural deprivation. This is a somewhat more liberal definition of the handicapped individual than appears in the Vocational Rehabilitation Act. It will enable State rehabilitation agencies to provide services for a badly handicapped group of individuals who need the identical services that are being made available for physically and mentally handicapped clients at this time, but who might not be considered eligible in some cases. The State of Washington has been a leader in providing rehabilitation services to a group of handicapped who may be said to be "nondisabled," in as much as they may not necessarily have medically determinable physical or mental disabilities. Cooperating with the Department of Public Welfare, and using State funds only, this program is making a significant contribution toward the achievement of objectives of H.R. 10440. In this amendment we do not disassociate eligibility from physical and/or mental disability, but we are assuming that numbers of individuals such as those now being served by the Washington Rehabilitation Agency under its new program will be eligible for services under this amendment.

We shall give a few illustrations of the kind of projects that might be developed under the amendment. The Georgia Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, in cooperation with the Georgia Public Welfare Department, is operating a successful pilot project in Chatham County demonstrating that handicapped parents and guardians of ADC recipients can be rehabilitated to the great benefit of the families themselves and with great savings to the State and Federal Government in public welfare cost. With additional funds appropriated under H.R. 10440, this program could be extended to other parts of the State. Similar projects are underway in many other States. They include: Arizona, Maricopa County; Arkansas, Pulaski County; Florida, Orange and Seminole Counties; Minnesota, Ramsey County; Nebraska, Douglas and Lawrence Counties; New Jersey, Union, Passaic and Middlesex Counties; Oregon, Multnomah County; Texas, Harris and Bexar Counties; Vermont, Chittenden County; West Virginia, Kanawha County; Wisconsin, Milwaukee County; Massachusetts, Boston County; Utah, Salt Lake County; Illinois, Cook County; Kentucky, Harlan, Bell, Johnson, Martin, and Lawrence Counties.

The Illinois Division of Vocational Rehabilitation has developed a program in cooperation with the public school system of Champaign to provide services to bridge the gap between school and employment for mentally retarded youth. A similar program is operating in the La Grange area. With funds appropriated under H.R. 10440, these programs could be extended to other parts of the State. Almost all of the States would be able to develop similar projects. States that already have underway special projects making a beginning in this field include: Oregon, New Jersey, Minnesota, North Carolina, Virginia, West Virginia, Puerto Rico, Florida, Alabama, Georgia, South Carolina, Tennessee, Oklahoma, Texas, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, Wisconsin, Iowa, Missouri, Arkansas, and Louisiana.

In Kentucky, the vocational rehabilitation division is developing rehabilita-