



COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
DEPARTMENT FOR AGING AND REHABILITATIVE SERVICES

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July 1, 2020

Memorandum

TO: Law Enforcement Agencies in the Commonwealth

FROM: Kathryn A. Hayfield, Commissioner, Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services
Kathryn A. Hayfield

SUBJECT: HB 1025 – Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Information for Officers Sustaining a Disability in the Performance of Their Duties

During the 2020 Session, House Bill 1025 (Adams, L.), as passed by the General Assembly, requires the Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services (DARS) to provide information regarding vocational rehabilitation and employment services to law enforcement agencies within the Commonwealth to assist former law-enforcement officers who have a disability as a result of their service with preparing for, obtaining, and maintaining suitable employment. DARS is pleased to share with you several web resources that we hope will be helpful to officers exploring their options. We are providing this information in an electronic format as these access points and accompanying materials will ensure you have the most up to date information. If you prefer to provide paper copies, this information may also be printed off and shared.

HB 1025 also requires law enforcement agencies to provide to officers who separate from the agency due to a disability resulting from their service information regarding vocational rehabilitation programs and employment services that can help them prepare, obtain, and maintain other employment. We hope that the attached information we have provided assists you in meeting this directive as well.

I look forward to working with you to ensure that law enforcement officers who sustain a disability while serving their community and our Commonwealth are aware of their options as they explore new avenues and potential new ways to be engaged in their communities and maintain their independence. If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact me or Catherine Harrison, Director of the Division of Policy and Legislative Affairs, at Catherine.Harrison@dars.virginia.gov or (804) 662-9968.

Virginia's Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Program

Can Virginia's VR program help you?

- Do you have a disability?
- Do you want to work?
- Are you having trouble getting or keeping a job because of your disability?

If you answered "Yes" to these questions, the VR program may be able to help. For more information please see the resources listed below.

Vocational Rehabilitation Resources

- DARS Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DRS) <https://www.vadars.org/drs/vr/default.htm>
 - Officers may find information regarding:
 - What VR is;
 - How VR works;
 - Who may be eligible;
 - How to apply;
 - FAQs; and
 - Local DARS offices.
- Career Library <https://www.vadars.org/drs/vr/library.htm>
 - Provides helpful links and resources for job seekers.
- Referral Form <https://www.vadars.org/drs/vr/DocumentRepository.htm>
 - Click on the attached link which will take you to the DRS VR Program Forms document repository page. Under "Applications" click on "Download File" next to "Referral".

Additional Resources

Other resources that may be of interest include:

- The Virginia Assistive Technology System <http://vats.org>
- Centers for Independent Living <https://www.vadars.org/cbs/cils.htm>
- The Assistive Technology Loan Fund Authority <https://www.atlfa.org/>
- The Department for the Blind and Vision Impaired <https://www.vdbvi.org/>
- The Department for Deaf and Hard of Hearing <https://www.vddhh.org/>