

# Executive Order

## WPC 87-16

### *Establishing the Governor's Committee for Disabled Persons Repealing Executive Order MW-10*

WHEREAS, it is the policy of the State of Texas to encourage, assist and enable persons with disabilities to participate in the social and economic life of the state; to achieve maximum personal independence; to become gainfully employed; and to otherwise fully enjoy and use all public facilities available within the state, and

WHEREAS, it is the policy of the State of Texas to provide rehabilitation and related services to persons with disabilities so that they may prepare for and engage in gainful occupation; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Congress has authorized programs to promote and expand employment opportunities in the public and private sectors for persons with disabilities and to place such persons in employment; and

WHEREAS, as Governor of the State of Texas, I am deeply interested that there be cooperation between the State of Texas, the Federal Government, the President's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped, and among State agencies in the achievement of their stated goals.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, William P. Clements, Jr., Governor of Texas, under the authority vested in me, do hereby revoke, rescind and repeal Executive Order MW-10 and do hereby establish the GOVERNOR'S COMMITTEE FOR DISABLED PERSONS, hereafter referred to as the COMMITTEE.

#### I. Purpose

The COMMITTEE shall carry on a continuing program to promote employment and public awareness of the abilities and special needs of persons with disabilities in this State.

#### II. Organization

1. The COMMITTEE shall be composed of twelve members appointed by the Governor who shall serve for two year terms and at the pleasure of the Governor with half of the positions expiring each year. At least seven of the members shall be persons with disabilities.

2. The Chairman of the Texas Employment Commission, the Commissioner of the Texas Rehabilitation Commission, the Executive Director of the Texas Commission for the Blind, and the Executive Director for the Texas Commission for the Deaf shall serve as ex officio members of the COMMITTEE.

3. APPOINTED committee members shall serve without pay, but shall be entitled to actual and necessary expenses incurred in performance of COMMITTEE business, such business to include attendance at Committee meetings, telephone calls to conduct Committee business, and attendance at functions to officially represent the Committee, but such expenses shall be limited to funds available.

4. The Texas Rehabilitation Commission shall provide administrative support to the COMMITTEE. The COMMITTEE shall have an Executive Director who will effect coordination between the Texas Rehabilitation Commission and the COMMITTEE in the arrangement of administrative support and be responsible for operations of the COMMITTEE staff in support of COMMITTEE activities. The Executive Director of the COMMITTEE shall be employed by the Texas Rehabilitation Commission after the COMMITTEE and the Governor have concurred in the selection. The relationship between the COMMITTEE and the administrative support agency shall be governed by memorandum of agreement between the Governor's Office and the administrative support agency, the Texas Rehabilitation Commission. All state agencies with responsibilities relating to employment and to services for persons with disabilities are encouraged to assist and support the COMMITTEE.

5. The COMMITTEE shall make such rules and designate such subcommittees and task forces as it determines advisable for the conduct of its business and in accordance with its purpose and functions.

6. The COMMITTEE may enlist nonmembers to serve on its subcommittees and task forces as appropriate to obtain needed expertise and broaden representation from its constituencies. Such nonmembers shall serve without pay or reimbursement of expenses.

7. The Texas Rehabilitation Commission may receive gifts, grants and donations for the purpose of supporting the COMMITTEE and funding the COMMITTEE in mandated purpose and functions.

8. The COMMITTEE shall observe the requirements of the Texas Open Meetings Act.

### III. Functions

The COMMITTEE shall:

1. Give policy advice to the Governor on matters impacting employment and other quality of life opportunities for persons with disabilities.
2. Develop and support a statewide network of volunteer community level committees to promote employment of persons with disabilities and public awareness concerning their abilities and special needs.
3. Provide information on laws and programs impacting employment and other quality of life opportunities for persons with disabilities.
4. Promote a favorable climate in the business community for employment of persons with disabilities.
5. Encourage coordination between and among local, state and federal agencies in their activities to promote employment of persons with disabilities and awareness of their abilities and special needs.
6. Conduct conferences and forums on issues pertinent to employment and other quality of life opportunities affecting persons with disabilities.
7. Issue awards and other forms of recognition to individuals and organizations making outstanding contributions to employment of persons with disabilities and to public awareness of issues impacting disabled persons.
8. Serve as the liaison to the President's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped for the State of Texas.
9. Cooperate with the state legislature on matters affecting persons with disabilities.

### IV. Meetings

The COMMITTEE shall meet at the call of the Chairman to conduct its business.

### V. Reports

The COMMITTEE shall make a complete written report of their findings, activities and recommendations to the Governor. All agencies of state and local government are hereby directed to cooperate with and assist the COMMITTEE in the performance of its duties.

This executive order shall be effective immediately and shall remain in full force and effect until modified, amended, or rescinded by me.

Given under my hand this 5th day of October, 1987.

Issued in Austin, Texas, on October 5, 1987.

TRD-8709054

*William P. Clements, Jr.*  
Governor of Texas