Maine State Rehabilitation Council - Division for The Blind

and Visually Impaired

BY LAWS

ARTICLE I – NAME

This organization shall be known as the Maine State Rehabilitation Council (hereinafter

referred to as the Council) to the Division for the Blind and Visually Impaired (hereinafter

referred to as the Division).

ARTICLE II – MISSION

The mission of the Council is, in partnership with the Director of the Division, to formally

provide leadership and diverse viewpoints in order to effectively develop and evaluate

programs, policies and services, and to influence, at the systemic and policy level, the direction

of those services to the blind and visually impaired population of Maine. The Council will also

partner with the Division to identify priorities that help create opportunities, increase

independence and broaden access to the workplace for citizens of all ages who are blind or

visually impaired.

ARTICLE III – FUNCTION AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Council must, after consulting with the State Workforce Development Board, perform the

following tasks:

1. Review, analyze, and advise the Division regarding the performance of it's responsibilities

a) Eligibility, including order of selection

b) The extent, scope, and effectiveness of services provided; and

c) Functions performed by State agencies that affect or potentially affect the ability of

individuals with visual impairment, blindness and with additional disabilities in achieving

employment outcomes.

2. In partnership with the Division, develop, agree to, and review State goals and priorities.

3. Evaluate the effectiveness of the vocational rehabilitation program and submit reports of

progress to the Secretary of the Department of Education.

4. Advise the Division regarding activities carried out, and assist in the preparation of the

vocational rehabilitation services portion of the Unified or Combined State Plan and

amendments to the plan, applications, reports, needs assessments, and evaluations.

5. To the extent feasible, conduct a review and analysis of effectiveness and consumer

satisfaction with VR and services provided by state agencies and other public or private

entities responsible for providing VR services to individuals with visual impairment,

blindness and with additional disabilities under the Act, and of employment outcomes,

including health and employment benefits in connection with the employment outcomes.

6. Prepare and submit to the Governor and to the Secretary of the Department of Education, no

later than 90 days after the end of the Federal fiscal year, an annual report on the status of

vocational rehabilitation programs operated within the State, and make the report available

to the public through appropriate modes of communication.

7. Coordinate activities with the activities of other councils, including:

a) Statewide Independent Living Council

b) State Developmental Disabilities Planning Council

c) State Quality Improvement Council

d) State Workforce Development Board

e) And activities of entities carrying out programs under the Assistive Technology Act of

1998

8. Provide for coordination and the establishment of working relationships between the

Division and the Statewide Independent Living Council and centers for independent living

within the State.

9. Perform other functions that are comparable to the other functions performed by the Council.

a) The Council, in conjunction with the Division, must prepare a plan for the provision of

resources, including staff and other personnel, that may be necessary and sufficient for

the Council to carry out its functions.

b) The resource plan must, to the maximum extent possible, rely on the use of resources in

existence during the period of implementation of the plan.

10. The Council must, consistent with State law, supervise and evaluate the staff and personnel

that are necessary to carry out its functions.

a) Those staff and personnel that are assisting the Council in carrying out its functions may

not be assigned duties by the Division or any other agency or office of the State that

would create a conflict of interest.