Public comment sought on Vocational Rehabilitation changes to rules

(Salem, Ore.) – The Vocational Rehabilitation program is seeking public comment on changes to its administrative rules. The public may testify at public hearings or submit written comments from Tuesday, Sept. 3, 2019 through Tuesday, Oct. 15, 2019.

Vocational Rehabilitation seeks input on the proposed changes to Oregon Administrative Rule (OAR) 582 Divisions 1, 72, 100, 115, and 190. All input will be reviewed, and the proposed rules may be modified as a result.

The proposed rules will be posted at https://go.usa.gov/xVjDk September 3, 2019.

Vocational Rehabilitation is updating OAR 582 to align with requirements of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), enacted July 22, 2014 (Public Law No. 113-128). The rules match definitions and requirements in the Rehabilitation Act, as amended, and clarify processes for vocational rehabilitation service.

How to comment or provide testimony:

Email: Email your comments to: VR.Policy@state.or.us

Mail: Send written testimony to:
Department of Human Services, Vocational Rehabilitation
Robin Brandt, Policy Analyst
500 Summer Street NE, E-87 Salem, Oregon 97310-1018

In person: Attend the public hearing listed below.

By phone: During the hearing, dial in as indicated for each meeting.

The hearings will end when comments conclude. Please arrive before the meeting to sign up to provide testimony.
The public hearings:

Monday, September 16, 2019
Time: 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.
Location: Human Service Building – Room 160
500 Summer Street NE
Salem, Oregon 97301
Dial in: +1 (503) 934-1400, Access code: 9687949#

Tuesday, September 17, 2019
Time: 2:30 – 3:30 p.m.
Location: WorkSource Bend
Mirror Pond Conference Room
1645 NE Forbes Rd, Suite 100
Bend, OR 97701
Dial in: +1 (503) 934-1400, Access code: 810727#

Friday, September 20, 2019
Time: 1:30 - 2:30 p.m.
Location: Oregon Vocational Rehabilitation
Milwaukie-International-Conference Room
4382 SE International Way, Ste B
Milwaukie OR 97222
Dial in: +1 (503) 934-1400, Access code: 2807972#

Thursday, September 26, 2019
Time: 3 to 4 p.m.
Location: Oregon Vocational Rehabilitation
Medford Vocational Rehabilitation office
28 West 6th Street
Medford, Oregon 97501
Dial in: +1 (503) 934-1400, Access code: 68813340#

Tuesday, October 8, 2019
Time: 1:30 - 2:30 p.m.
Location: Oregon Vocational Rehabilitation
VR Conference Room
DHS Mackenzie Center
2885 Chad Drive
Please arrive early to sign in to testify. The hearing will be closed when comments are concluded.

A visual recording will be made to document the hearing.

**Accommodation:** Anyone who requires an auxiliary aid or service for effective communication should make a request as soon as possible but no later than 48 hours before the scheduled event by contacting Robin Brandt at (503-945-5857) or email VR.Policy@state.or.us.

**About Vocational Rehabilitation:** DHS Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) assists individuals with disabilities to get and keep a job that matches their skills, interests and abilities. VR staff work in partnership with the community and businesses to provide services that are individualized to help each eligible person receive services that are essential to their employment success

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