

News Release

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Vocational Rehabilitation program seeks public comment on rule changes

(Salem, Ore.) – The Oregon Department of Human Services' Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) program is seeking public comment on changes to its administrative rules. The public may testify at public hearings or submit written comments by Friday, March 4, 2022 at 5 p.m.

Vocational Rehabilitation seeks input on the proposed changes to Oregon Administrative Rule [\(OAR\) 582-070-0025](#) Vehicle repair, modification and purchase. This rule helps clarify the process for vehicle related purchases that may help a VR client overcome disability-related barriers to find, secure, maintain or advance their career. All input will be reviewed, and the proposed rules may be modified as a result of public input during this period.

The proposed rules are posted on the [VR Policy web page](#).

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](#)) and with state and federal requirements. The rules match requirements in the Rehabilitation Act, as amended, state policy, and clarify processes for vocational rehabilitation service.

How to comment or provide testimony:

- Email your comments to: VR.Policy@dhsosha.state.or.us
- Mail written testimony to Oregon Department of Human Services, Vocational Rehabilitation, Robin Brandt, Policy Analyst, 500 Summer Street NE, E-87 Salem, Oregon 97310-1018
- Attend a virtual public hearing on Zoom by phone or online. The hearings will be recorded and will end when comments conclude. Staff will be available for comments for at least 30 minutes after the hearing starts. Public hearings will be held on:
 - **Wednesday, February 16, 2022** from 3:30-4:30 p.m. [Register through Zoom.](#)
 - **Thursday, February 17, 2022** from 10 to 11 a.m. [Register through Zoom.](#)
 - **Friday, February 25, 2022** from noon to 1 p.m. [Register through Zoom.](#)

- **Tuesday, March 1, 2022** from 4-5 p.m. [Register through Zoom](#)

ASL interpretation and live captioning will be provided at every public hearing.

You can request accommodation in other languages, large print, braille or a format you prefer to submit public comment, attend a public hearing. Contact Robin Brandt at 503-507-5226 or by email at VR.Policy@dhsosha.state.or.us. We accept calls from all forms of relay service for people who are Deaf, deaf-blind, hard of hearing or have a speech disability. For more information about relay service providers visit www.oregonrelay.com or www.fcc.gov/encyclopedia/trs-providers. Please let us know of any accommodations at least a week in advance. We will to our best to accommodate all requests.

To receive notice of future public hearings, send an email to VR.Policy@dhsosha.state.or.us. Use the subject line “Public hearings”.

About Vocational Rehabilitation: ODHS 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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