

## **SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION**

### **Item 16: Department of Human Services Vocational Rehabilitation Rate Parity**

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To:           Ways and Means Full Committee  
From:        Human Services Subcommittee  
Carrier:      Representative Stark

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The Human Services Subcommittee recommends that the Joint Interim Committee on Ways and Means recommend including an increase of \$3,600,000 in the Other Funds expenditure limitation and authorizing the establishment of four permanent positions (2.52 FTE) for the Department of Human Services, Vocational Rehabilitation, in a budget reconciliation bill during the 2022 legislative session, to increase provider rates for employment services and to increase outreach to employers.

The Vocational Rehabilitation and Office of Developmental Disabilities Services programs both contract with community-based organization for employment services, however, the rate paid by the Vocational Rehabilitation program is significantly less than the ODDS rates. To avoid a potential reduced level of access for VR clients, DHS has proposed to increase VR rates to match ODDS rates. The four permanent full-time positions are needed to conduct outreach and provide technical assistance to employers with the aim of increasing opportunities for people with disabilities to achieve their employment goals.

The Subcommittee recommends approval.