


COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE
EXECUTIVE ORDER

Subject: Governor's Cabinet for People with Disabilities Governor's Advisory Committee for People with Disabilities		Number: 2006-09
Date: November 21, 2006	By Direction of:  Edward G. Rendell, Governor	

- WHEREAS, discrimination against individuals or groups by reason of disability is unlawful; and
- WHEREAS, such discrimination based upon disability threatens the rights and privileges of residents of the Commonwealth; and
- WHEREAS, the denial of equal employment, housing, and public accommodation opportunities because of such discrimination, and the failure to use the productive abilities of individuals to their fullest extent, deprive people with disabilities from opportunities to enhance their standard of living; and
- WHEREAS, the public health, safety, and general welfare of the Commonwealth is promoted by providing equal opportunities for all individuals, regardless of disability, to public accommodation and secure, accessible, affordable housing accommodation and commercial property; and
- WHEREAS, services and programs provided by the Commonwealth for individuals with disabilities and their families and guardians should be provided in a timely manner that promotes independent living, enables people to obtain and maintain employment, and supports people with disabilities in the least restrictive environment; and
- WHEREAS, the Commonwealth should strive to promote the employment of all individuals in accordance with their fullest abilities to safeguard their right to obtain and hold employment without discrimination; and
- WHEREAS, a state-level office is needed to advise and assist the Office of the Governor and departments within State government in developing policies addressing the concerns of individuals with disabilities; and
- WHEREAS, access to the office will enable individuals with disabilities and their families and guardians to have their concerns and issues addressed.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Edward G. Rendell, Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and other laws of the Commonwealth, do hereby create the **Governor's Cabinet for People with Disabilities** ("Cabinet") and the **Governor's Advisory Committee for People with Disabilities** ("Committee") and do order and direct as follows:

1. Governor's Cabinet for People with Disabilities.

a. Establishment. The Governor's Cabinet for People with Disabilities is hereby created.

b. Executive Director. The Governor will appoint an Executive Director of the Cabinet.

c. Membership. The Cabinet shall consist of the following members, who shall serve by virtue of their public position:

- (1) Secretary of Public Welfare, who shall serve as chair of the Cabinet.
- (2) Secretary of Labor & Industry.
- (3) Secretary of Health.
- (4) Secretary of Education.
- (5) Secretary of Transportation.
- (6) Secretary of the Budget.
- (7) Secretary of Aging.
- (8) Secretary of Policy and Planning.
- (9) Director of the Governor's Office of Health Care Reform.
- (10) Chair of Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission.
- (11) Executive Director of Governor's Office of Housing and Community Revitalization.
- (12) Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Developmental Disabilities Council.
- (13) Executive Director of the Governor's Office for People with Disabilities.
- (14) Executive Director of the Governor's Long Term Living Council.

d. Responsibilities. The responsibilities of the Cabinet shall be the following:

(1) Make recommendations to the Governor on policies, procedures, regulations, and legislation that aid people with disabilities in Pennsylvania.

(2) Serve as the Governor's liaison to people with disabilities on policies, procedures, regulations, and legislation that affect people with disabilities in order to ensure that State government is accessible, accountable, and responsive to people with disabilities.

(3) Serve as a resource to all departments, commissions, and agencies under the Governor's jurisdiction to ensure that these government entities are cognizant of the needs of people with disabilities and their respective services and programs are accessible to those individuals.

(4) Work with the Administration and agencies to monitor the hiring, retention, and promotion practices of the Commonwealth relating to the employment of people with disabilities in order to ensure that there are no discriminatory practices within the Commonwealth.

2. Governor's Advisory Committee for People with Disabilities.

a. Establishment and Responsibilities. The Governor's Advisory Committee for People with Disabilities is hereby established and shall serve in an advisory capacity to the Cabinet in matters regarding people with disabilities in the Commonwealth.

b. Membership. The Committee shall consist of the following members, with a Chair to be designated by the Governor:

(1) The Governor shall appoint as members people with disabilities, including individuals from existing stakeholder groups, in such number as he deems appropriate.

(2) At a minimum, sixty percent (60%) of these members shall be people with disabilities or family members of people with disabilities.

(3) These Committee members serve at the pleasure of the Governor.

c. Compensation and expenses. The members of the Committee shall not receive a salary or per diem allowance for serving as members of the Committee, but shall be reimbursed for actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties in accordance with Commonwealth policy.

3. Responsibilities of Commonwealth Agencies. All agencies under the jurisdiction of the Governor shall cooperate with and provide any necessary assistance to the Cabinet and Committee in performing their functions.

4. Reports and Studies. The Cabinet may conduct studies and issue reports upon request and as it deems necessary on issues affecting people with disabilities in Pennsylvania.

5. Effective Date. This Executive Order shall take effect immediately and shall remain in effect unless revised or rescinded by the Governor.