

## **EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 31-2008**

### **Creating an Interagency Disabilities Advisory Council, to Continue, as Amended, the Work of the Disabilities Advisory Council**

WHEREAS, the Americans with Disabilities Act opens the doors of opportunity for Montana's citizens with disabilities to become participants in policy development at the local and state level; and

WHEREAS, the Americans with Disabilities Act requires equal opportunity for persons with disabilities in employment, state and local government services, education, housing, public accommodations, commercial facilities, and transportation, among others; and

WHEREAS, nationally, it has been reported that 46% of people with disabilities are unemployed but 70% of people with disabilities would like to work; and

WHEREAS, the high unemployment of people with disabilities occurs because of numerous barriers to employment including, but not limited to: transportation availability and coordination, youth transitions, adequate health care and stigma; and

WHEREAS, the State of Montana should serve as a model and act as a resource for all employers to provide equal opportunities for people with disabilities in employment; and

WHEREAS, the term of the Governor's Disabilities Advisory Council, established through Executive Order 4-2005, has expired, but it is important that the work of the Advisory Council continue, as provided in this executive order.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Brian Schweitzer, Governor of the State of Montana, by virtue of the authority vested in me under the laws and the Constitution of the State of Montana, do hereby establish the Interagency Disabilities Advisory Council.

#### **PURPOSE AND DUTIES:**

The Interagency Disabilities Advisory Council will:

1. Identify barriers to employment for people with disabilities, both in state government and in the private sector.
2. Identify resources available from state and local government and private and non-profit sectors to assist people with disabilities in overcoming employment barriers.
3. Identify areas of potential collaboration and coordination of funding, personnel, and other resources, both in state government and in the private sector, to overcome employment barriers and support the employment of people with disabilities.
4. Develop recommendations for strategies and long-range plans for state agencies to increase the employment of people with disabilities.
5. Promote positive images and support the individual self-determination and independence of persons with disabilities through equal access to employment and other opportunities.
6. Assist with an annual training for state Human Resources personnel, hiring managers, supervisors, ADA coordinators, legal counsel and other appropriate parties regarding the employment of people with disabilities in state government.

7. Provide to the Governor or his representative a report summarizing information, recommendations and accomplishments regarding all duties of the Council.

**COMPOSITION:**

The Interagency Disabilities Advisory Council shall be composed of no fewer than eleven (11) voting members, appointed by and serving at the pleasure of the Governor. A majority of the voting members shall be people with disabilities or family members of people with disabilities. The Chair shall be appointed by the Governor. In addition to the voting members, the Directors (or their designees), of the following Departments shall serve as ex-officio, non voting members: Health and Human Services, Labor and Industry, Transportation, Administration, Commerce and Corrections. The names and addresses of the Council members will be submitted by separate letter to the Secretary of State.

The Council is attached to the Department of Administration for administrative purposes. The Department shall assist the Council by providing staff and other resources and information as needed to carry out the Council's purpose. All other executive branch agencies shall cooperate with and assist the Council as requested by the Council.

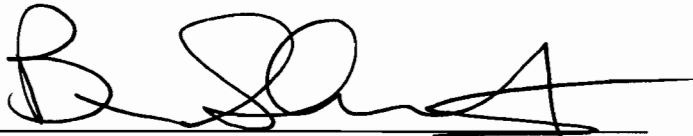
**COMPENSATION AND TRAVEL:**

Council members eligible for compensation under Mont. Code Ann. § 2-15-122(5) shall be compensated in an amount to be determined by the Department head, not to exceed \$50 for each day in which the member is actually and necessarily engaged in performance of Council duties. All members shall be reimbursed for travel expenses pursuant to Mont. Code Ann. § 2-15-122(5).

**DURATION:**

The Interagency Disabilities Advisory Council shall exist for a period of two years from the effective date of this order. This Order is effective immediately.

GIVEN under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of Montana this 25 day of April, 2008.

  
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BRIAN SCHWEITZER, Governor

Attest:

  
BRAD JOHNSON, Secretary of State *deputy*