

DVI: Recommendations

<u>Recommendation & Status</u>	<u>What to Do Next</u>
<p style="text-align: center;">Recommendation 1: Continue or Terminate</p> <p>Under §10213(a), Title 29, the Committee must determine whether there is a genuine public need for an agency under review. To meet this requirement, the Committee may select one of the following options.</p> <p><u>Option 1:</u> DVI shall continue, subject to any further recommendations that JLOSC adopts.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">- OR -</p> <p><u>Option 2:</u> DVI is terminated. The Committee will sponsor legislation to implement the termination.*</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Status:</p> <p>5/9: First consideration of this recommendation.</p>	<p>Vote whether to approve this recommendation. A motion to approve this Rec must receive 7 “yes” votes to carry.</p> <p>If Option 2 is approved, consider who will take over the duties of DVI.</p>

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* Unless otherwise noted, all legislation resulting from an approved recommendation will be drafted by the Committee’s legislative attorney.

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<p>Recommendation 2: General Statutory Updates & Technical Corrections JLOSC will sponsor a bill to do the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Make technical corrections to DVI’s entire governing statute, including Chapter 79, Title 29; Chapter 21, Title 31; and braille literacy rights and education in Chapter 2, Title 14. b. Add standardize member removal provision. c. Add language for resolving a tie when voting on the Council’s chair. <p style="text-align: center;">Status: 5/6: First consideration of this recommendation.</p>	<p>Discuss and vote on this recommendation.</p>
<u>Recommendation & Status</u>	<u>What to Do Next</u>
<p style="text-align: center;">Recommendation 3: Reduce Teacher Student Ratio</p> <p>Based on DVI’s request, the Committee will sponsor a bill to amend § 206, Title 14 to reduce teacher/student ratio and provide statutory updates to include digital formats, as follows:</p> <p>(e) To meet the instructional needs of students who is blind <u>with visual impairments including blindness</u>, the Division for the Visually Impaired shall employ one (1) <u>1</u> teacher of students with visual impairments for every 28 <u>14</u> students (or major fraction thereof) who are eligible to receive services from the Agency. All teachers of students with visual impairments including blindness shall provide instructions to satisfy individualized educational programs requiring 12-month entitlement and extended school year services. At least 2 of these teacher units shall be 12-month employees in order to insure competent Braille instruction during the summer months.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Status: 5/9: First consideration of this recommendation.</p>	<p>Discuss and vote on this recommendation.</p>

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<p style="text-align: center;">Recommendation 4: Publish By-Laws</p> <p>DVI shall post on its website all by-laws for advisory councils and committees that serve DVI, specifically for the Independent Living Advisory Committee (ILAC) and Committee of Blind Vendors.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Status:</p> <p>5/9: First consideration of this recommendation.</p>	<p>Discuss and vote on this recommendation.</p>
<u>Recommendation & Status</u>	<u>What to Do Next</u>
<p style="text-align: center;">Recommendation 5: Council of the Blind By-law Requirement</p> <p>DVI shall direct the Council of the Blind to create and finalize Council by-laws.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Status:</p> <p>5/9: First consideration of this recommendation.</p>	<p>Discuss and vote on this recommendation.</p>
<u>Recommendation & Status</u>	<u>What to Do Next</u>
<p style="text-align: center;">Recommendation 6: Remove Reference to the Delaware Industries for the Blind (DIB) from the Delaware Code and Administrative Code</p> <p>DVI reported that operations for the DIB closed in March 2017. Based on DVI's request:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The Committee will sponsor a bill to remove all references to the DIB from the Delaware Code, including § 7929, Title 29 and § 9605, Title 16. b. DVI will promulgate necessary amendments to remove all references to DIB from the Delaware Administrative Code, including § 9101, Title 16. <p style="text-align: center;">Status:</p> <p>5/9: First consideration of this recommendation.</p>	<p>Discuss and vote on this recommendation.</p>

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<p>Recommendation 7: Business Enterprise Program (BEP) Regulations There currently are no regulations governing the BEP. DVI shall direct the BEP to promulgate regulations to implement and operate the program. The regulations shall include provisions related to all of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Participant eligibility. b. Personnel management. c. Fiscal controls. d. Marketing plans. e. Enforcement of production quality standards as stated under § 7929, Title 29. f. Set-aside requirements and procedures for Blind Operators. <p style="text-align: center;">Status: 5/9: First consideration of this recommendation.</p>	<p>Discuss and vote on this recommendation.</p>
<u>Recommendation & Status</u>	<u>What to Do Next</u>
<p style="text-align: center;">Recommendation 8: Removal Process for Members of the BEP, Blind Vendors Committee Board</p> <p>DVI shall direct the Business Enterprise Program, Blind Vendors Committee to adopt member removal and conflict of interest provisions in the committee's by-laws.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Status: 5/9: First consideration of this recommendation.</p>	<p>Discuss and vote on this recommendation.</p>

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<p style="text-align: center;">Recommendation 9: BEP, Blind Vendors Committee Training Opportunities</p> <p>DVI shall offer training opportunities to and encourage the participation of the BEP, Blind Vendors Committee members in order to support and expand the program.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Status: 5/9: First consideration of this recommendation.</p>	<p>Discuss and vote on this recommendation.</p>
<u>Recommendation & Status</u>	<u>What to Do Next</u>
<p style="text-align: center;">Recommendation 10: Implementation of BEP Audit Recommendations</p> <p>DVI shall implement all recommendations that were included in the BEP audit that was completed by Cover and Rossiter. DVI shall provide JLOSC with implementation status updates [by specific date or on specified periodic basis].</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Status: 5/9: First consideration of this recommendation.</p>	<p>Discuss and vote on this recommendation.</p>
<u>Recommendation & Status</u>	<u>What to Do Next</u>
<p style="text-align: center;">Recommendation 11: BEP Set-Aside Requirements</p> <p>DVI shall review current set-aside requirements, determine whether they are adequate, and pursue appropriate remedies for inadequacies.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Status: 5/9: First consideration of this recommendation.</p>	<p>Discuss and vote on this recommendation.</p>

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<p style="text-align: center;">Recommendation 12: BEP Public Outreach</p> <p>DVI shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Develop a BEP application. b. Update the BEP section of its website to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) BEP educational and outreach materials, including information on the Randolph-Sheppard Act. (2) Links for regulations, rules, policies, or by-laws affecting BEP. (3) Access to the BEP application. <p style="text-align: center;">Status:</p> <p>5/9: First consideration of this recommendation.</p>	<p>Discuss and vote on this recommendation.</p>
<u>Recommendation & Status</u>	<u>What to Do Next</u>
<p style="text-align: center;">Recommendation 13: Remove BEP from State Payroll and Pension Systems</p> <p><u>Option 1:</u> Remove the Blind Vendors of the BEP from the State’s payroll and pension system.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">- OR -</p> <p><u>Option 2:</u> DVI shall submit a detailed proposal to the JLOSC regarding the functionality of the BEP’s business and accounting operations without the support of the State’s payroll and pension system, including consideration of the impact to current and past BEP participants.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Status:</p> <p>5/9: First consideration of this recommendation.</p>	<p>Discuss and vote on this recommendation.</p> <p>In discussing Option 2, consider the implications of removing the BEP from the State’s payroll and pension system. There are likely past BEP participants who are actively collecting a State pension under § 5501(m), Title 29. Removing BEP from the State’s payroll system may limit oversight of BEP’s accounting.</p>

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<p style="text-align: center;">Recommendation 14: Strengthen State’s Licensing Authority Under the Randolph-Sheppard Act</p> <p>DVI shall submit a detailed proposal to the JLOSC regarding legislation and measures to be taken to strengthen the State’s licensing authority under the Randolph-Sheppard Act and to expand vending opportunities in institutions of higher learning, Department of Corrections, and interstate rest areas.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Status: 5/9: First consideration of this recommendation.</p>	<p>Discuss and vote on this recommendation.</p>
<u>Recommendation & Status</u>	<u>What to Do Next</u>
<p style="text-align: center;">Recommendation 15: Strengthen Business Programs</p> <p>The unemployment rate of those who are visually impaired is approximately 70%. DVI shall strengthen business programs and implement technology advances to provide training and employment for Delaware residents who are visually impaired.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Status: 5/9: First consideration of this recommendation.</p>	<p>Discuss and vote on this recommendation.</p>
<u>Recommendation & Status</u>	<u>What to Do Next</u>
<p style="text-align: center;">Recommendation 16: Fill Agency Vacancies</p> <p>There are currently 12 vacancies in DVI: 9 in the Education Unit, 2 in the Orientation and Mobility Unit, and 1 in the vocational rehabilitation unit. DVI shall work to fill these vacancies.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Status: 5/9: First consideration of this recommendation.</p>	<p>Discuss and vote on this recommendation.</p>

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<p style="text-align: center;">Recommendation 17: Increase Staff Certifications</p> <p>DVI shall work to increase staff certifications. Only 5 DVI employees hold Academy for Certification of Vision Rehabilitation & Education Professionals (“ACVREP”) certifications. There is no known DVI employee that holds a certification from Rehabilitation Engineering and Assistive Technology Society of North America (“RESNA”) or a National Certification in Unified English Braille (“NCUEB”) by the National Blindness Professional Certification Board (“NBPCB”).</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Status: 5/9: First consideration of this recommendation.</p>	<p>Discuss and vote on this recommendation.</p>
<u>Recommendation & Status</u>	<u>What to Do Next</u>
<p style="text-align: center;">Recommendation 18: Increase Braille Resources</p> <p>DVI shall increase braille resources for its consumers. The Hadley School for the Blind offers braille instruction courses by mail to sighted and visually impaired students. They offer braille courses tuition-free for visually impaired students. The National Federation of the Blind has free resources for braille certification.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Status: 5/9: First consideration of this recommendation.</p>	<p>Discuss and vote on this recommendation.</p>
<u>Recommendation & Status</u>	<u>What to Do Next</u>
<p style="text-align: center;">Recommendation 19: Funding and Grants for Assistive Technology</p> <p>DVI shall actively search and procure funding and grants for assistive technology to aid the DVI consumers.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Status: 5/9: First consideration of this recommendation.</p>	<p>Discuss and vote on this recommendation.</p>

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<p style="text-align: center;">Recommendation 20: DVI Staff Training on Assistive Technology</p> <p>DVI shall actively search and utilize training for DVI staff on the topic of Assistive Technology. Organizations such as RESNA offer resources.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Status:</p> <p>5/9: First consideration of this recommendation.</p>	<p>Discuss and vote on this recommendation.</p>
<u>Recommendation & Status</u>	<u>What to Do Next</u>
<p style="text-align: center;">Recommendation 21: Equip Rapid Ready Rooms</p> <p>DVI shall equip rapid ready rooms with meaningful resources and explore technology advances. DVI shall search for and apply for any available training grants available from Apple or Microsoft.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Status:</p> <p>5/9: First consideration of this recommendation.</p>	<p>Discuss and vote on this recommendation.</p>
<u>Recommendation & Status</u>	<u>What to Do Next</u>
<p style="text-align: center;">Recommendation 22: Encourage Teachers for the Visually Impaired (TVI) Education</p> <p>DVI shall work to expand public outreach and education programs for TVIs and include information on its website about the need for certified TVI instructors.</p> <p>Note: Delaware does not have a college certification program for TVIs, and there is a national and state shortage of TVI certified professionals. Kutztown University in Pennsylvania is the closest known program and offers it online.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Status:</p> <p>5/9: First consideration of this recommendation.</p>	<p>Discuss and vote on this recommendation.</p>

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<p style="text-align: center;">Recommendation 23: Recruitment</p> <p>DVI shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Partner with high schools and colleges and participate in recruitment events to highlight careers available with DVI and the need for certified professionals in the field of special education. b. Explore offering internship programs to encourage students to pursue degrees and certifications in special education. <p style="text-align: center;">Status:</p> <p>5/9: First consideration of this recommendation.</p>	<p>Discuss and vote on this recommendation.</p>
<u>Recommendation & Status</u>	<u>What to Do Next</u>
<p style="text-align: center;">Recommendation 24: Orientation and Mobility (O&M)</p> <p>DVI shall incorporate the use of GPS technology in their Orientation and Mobility program.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Status:</p> <p>5/9: First consideration of this recommendation.</p>	<p>Discuss and vote on this recommendation.</p>

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<p style="text-align: center;">Recommendation 25: Communication with DOE</p> <p>DVI expressed a desire to improve communications between it and the Department of Education (DOE). DVI shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Develop and implement communication and procedure guidelines regarding DVI services for students in local school districts. b. Review its current MOU with the DOE and work to bring meaningful modifications to the agreement. <p style="text-align: center;">Status:</p> <p>5/9: First consideration of this recommendation.</p>	<p>Discuss and vote on this recommendation.</p>
<u>Recommendation & Status</u>	<u>What to Do Next</u>
<p style="text-align: center;">Recommendation 26: Implementing Education Service Model</p> <p>Based on DVI's suggestion, DVI shall implement a fee model to ensure education services are adequately funded.</p> <p>The following is a suggested model:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Level 1 (up to 8 consults/year) @ \$1,900 per student Level 2 (1 meeting/week) @ \$4,500 per student Level 3 (2-3 meetings/week) @ \$12,600 per student Level 4 (4 meetings/week) @ \$14,300 per student <p style="text-align: center;">Status:</p> <p>5/9: First consideration of this recommendation.</p>	<p>Discuss and vote on this recommendation.</p>

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<u>Recommendation & Status</u>	<u>What to Do Next</u>
<p style="text-align: center;">Recommendation 27: Braille Instruction for All Students</p> <p>DVI shall provide braille instruction to all students unless assessment indicates otherwise inappropriate.</p> <p><u>Option</u>: Codify this recommendation in DVI’s governing statute.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Status:</p> <p>5/9: First consideration of this recommendation.</p>	<p>Discuss and vote on this recommendation.</p>
<u>Recommendation & Status</u>	<u>What to Do Next</u>
<p style="text-align: center;">Recommendation 28: DVI Resources for Individualized Education Program (IEP) Development</p> <p>DVI shall provide expertise to teachers, specialists, and counselors in the development of an IEP.</p> <p><u>Option</u>: Codify this recommendation in DVI’s governing statute.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Status:</p> <p>5/9: First consideration of this recommendation.</p>	<p>Discuss and vote on this recommendation.</p>
<u>Recommendation & Status</u>	<u>What to Do Next</u>
<p style="text-align: center;">Recommendation 29: Reporting Requirement Regarding Task Force</p> <p>DVI shall report to the JLOSC on the implementation status of the recommendations made by the Blind and Visually Impaired Education Task Force.[†] DVI shall implement the task force recommendations.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Status:</p> <p>5/9: First consideration of this recommendation.</p>	<p>Discuss and vote on this recommendation.</p>

[†] Final Report to the 148th General Assembly, June 2015.

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<u>Recommendation & Status</u>	<u>What to Do Next</u>
<p style="text-align: center;">Recommendation 30: Release from Review or Hold Over</p> <p><u>Option 1</u>: DVI is released from review upon enactment of recommended legislation.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">- OR -</p> <p><u>Option 2</u>: DVI is held over and shall report to the Committee in January 2020.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Status:</p> <p>5/9: First consideration of this recommendation.</p>	<p>Discuss and vote on this recommendation.</p>
<u>Recommendation & Status</u>	<u>What to Do Next</u>
<p style="text-align: center;">Recommendation 31: Establishing a Task Force</p> <p>The JLOSC will sponsor a bill establishing a task force addressing the implementation of recommendations 2-29 and any other recommendation deemed appropriate. The task force will issue a report to the JLOSC in January 2020.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Status:</p> <p>5/9: First consideration of this recommendation</p>	<p>Discuss and vote on this recommendation.</p>