

**DHS - DIVISION OF SERVICES FOR THE BLIND (765)**  
**FISCAL YEAR 2018**  
**As Enacted by Act 838 of 2017**

**I) AGENCY SUMMARY & REVENUE SOURCES**

**MISSION**

The Division of Services for the Blind was established to provide services to blind and severely visually impaired persons through a network of counselors and private service providers throughout the State. The Division is regulated by a seven member Board. Board members are appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate. The Division is functionally organized into three major sections: Support Services, Field Services, and Business and Technology Services.

**TOTAL APPROPRIATION**

The total recommendation is \$12,198,672 in FY2018 with increases of \$1,077,607.

**FUNDING SOURCES**

The Division's budget is funded with federal funds and General Revenue.

**II) CHANGE LEVEL REQUESTS**

**Operations**

The recommendation for the division's single appropriation is for \$12,198,672, with increases of \$1,077,607 in the following line items:

- Increases of \$199,065 in **Regular Salaries** and \$75,890 in **Personal Services Matching** for the restoration of 2 Certified Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor positions to support the newly created pre-employment transition program.
- **Operating Expenses** increase of \$290,385 to support the restored positions, for routine replacement of IT equipment and upgrade and support for the AWARE client database system.
- **Professional Fees** increase of \$487,267 to address potential contracting needs due to new federal regulations.
- **Capital Outlay** increase of \$25,000 to purchase equipment exceeding the M&O cost ceiling or to replace a federally funded vehicle should usage demand replacement.

**III) ADDITIONAL POSITIONS (Total Authorized Positions FY2017: 76)**

Total Positions for FY2018: 78

Total Base Level Positions: 76

Increase/(Decrease): 2 - Restoration of 2 Certified Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor positions.

Extra Help Positions FY2018: 30 (Base Level Extra Help: 30)

**IV) SPECIAL LANGUAGE**

- COMPREHENSIVE SYSTEM OF PERSONNEL DEVELOPMENT: Authorizes a general waiver for the Division of State Services for the Blind to provide college level coursework for ~~Rehabilitation Counselors~~ any eligible employees selected by the Division. The waiver covers all formula and discretionary grants funded by the U.S. Department of Education Rehabilitation Services Administration. No state general revenue is allowed to be spent on the tuition waiver.