



Executive Order

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Governor's Office

Executive Order 2026-02 – Governor's Advisory Commission on People with Disabilities

Date: April 15, 2026

By Direction of: 
Josh Shapiro, Governor

- WHEREAS, people with disabilities in Pennsylvania make unique, diverse, and valuable contributions to the culture, society, and economy of Pennsylvania, which have a beneficial impact on life in the Commonwealth; and
- WHEREAS, the Commonwealth is committed to providing equality and opportunity for all Pennsylvanians, including increased access for people with disabilities to civic, economic, employment, and educational opportunities in Pennsylvania; and
- WHEREAS, the contributions of people with disabilities are acknowledged, while it is recognized that challenges are still faced by many of those people; and
- WHEREAS, it will benefit the Commonwealth to define and address the unique contributions, needs, and concerns of people with disabilities, in order to improve the lives of all Pennsylvanians.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Josh Shapiro, 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 establish, in the Office of the Governor, the Governor's Advisory Commission on People with Disabilities (hereinafter referred to as "Commission") and, further, order and direct as follows:

1. Purpose.

The purpose of the Commission is to gather information regarding the experiences and needs of Pennsylvanians with disabilities; review, evaluate, and assess programs affecting them; provide the Governor with information and recommendations regarding how best to meet their needs; and provide information about programs and services that may be relevant to the needs of Pennsylvanians with disabilities.

2. Responsibilities.

The Commission shall have the following responsibilities:

- a.** Review and recommend to the Governor policies regarding issues that affect Pennsylvanians with disabilities.
- b.** Work with the Governor's Office, at its request, to engage with federal, state, and local agencies to promote effective utilization of government programs impacting Pennsylvanians with disabilities.
- c.** Communicate with communities throughout the Commonwealth about activities and initiatives of the Administration that impact Pennsylvanians with disabilities.
- d.** Compile information about programs, scholarships, mentoring programs, sources of funding or other resources for the benefit and advancement of Pennsylvanians with disabilities.

3. Composition of the Commission.

- a.** The Commission shall consist of no more than 30 voting members, who are Pennsylvanians with disabilities or family members of Pennsylvanians with disabilities, or have an interest in their success, and bring relevant experience, expertise, and perspective to the Commission.
- b.** The Governor shall designate one Commission member to serve as Chairperson of the Commission. The Governor may also designate one Commission member to serve as Vice Chairperson. The Chairperson and Vice Chairperson serve at the pleasure of the Governor.
- c.** The Governor shall appoint an Executive Director of the Commission, who shall serve at the pleasure of the Governor. The Executive Director shall prepare agendas, timelines, and meeting schedules; convene meetings; oversee the activities of the Commission; act as the Commission's liaison to the Governor's Office through the Governor's relevant designee; and, at the request of the Governor's Office, provide expertise and guidance to state agencies regarding issues affecting people with disabilities and make recommendations on how to address them most effectively.
- d.** The Governor may appoint one or more non-voting honorary members to the Commission in addition to the 30 appointed members, who shall serve at the pleasure of the Governor. Honorary members shall receive no compensation or reimbursement of travel or related expenses. Section 4.d. of this Executive Order shall not apply to honorary members.

4. Terms of Membership.

- a.** Members of the Commission shall be appointed by and serve at the pleasure of the Governor.
- b.** Voting members of the Commission shall be appointed for a term of two (2) years and may continue to serve until their successor is appointed.
- c.** Should a vacancy occur on the Commission, the Governor may appoint a successor to complete the term of the vacancy.

- d. A voting member, who is absent from two (2) consecutive Commission meetings without excuse, shall forfeit membership on, and be removed from, the Commission.

5. Compensation.

Members of the Commission shall receive no compensation for their service, except that voting members may be reimbursed for reasonable travel and related expenses in accordance with Commonwealth policy.

6. Relationship with Other Agencies.

All agencies under the Governor's jurisdiction shall cooperate with and provide assistance and support as needed by the Commission to fulfill its responsibilities as set forth in this Executive Order. Independent agencies, state-affiliated entities, and state-related institutions are also strongly encouraged to work with the Commission to support its mission.

7. Reports.

The Commission shall submit to the Governor an annual report outlining its activities and accomplishments. The Commission may submit other reports, at the request of the Governor, on issues affecting Pennsylvanians with disabilities.

8. Procedures.

- a. The Commission is authorized to establish rules and procedures for the effective implementation of its responsibilities, consistent with this Executive Order.
- b. The Commission is authorized to establish subcommittees with specific purposes and goals set forth when established. Subcommittees may include advisory non-members, if approved by the Commission Chairperson. Subcommittee advisory non-members shall receive no compensation or reimbursement of travel or related expenses.
- c. A majority of currently serving voting members in attendance at a meeting of the Commission shall constitute a quorum.

9. Implementation.

This Executive Order shall be implemented consistent with applicable law. This Executive Order is not intended to and does not create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity by any party against the Commonwealth, its departments, agencies, or entities, its officers, employees, or agents, or any other persons.

10. Effective Date.

This Executive Order shall take effect immediately and shall remain in effect until amended or rescinded by the Governor.

11. Rescission.

Effective immediately, *Executive Order 2006-09*, dated November 21, 2006, and *Executive Order 2016-03*, dated March 10, 2016, are hereby rescinded.