

Montana Codes Annotated
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Title 18, Part 4
Vending Facilities

18-5-401. Purpose. It is the purpose of this part, in recognition of the vocational and economic needs of blind persons, to make available to those blind persons in need of vocational opportunities space in state, federal, or other property appropriate for certain business operations and to assist those persons in the development of business operations.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 175, L. 1981.

18-5-402. Definitions. As used in this part, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Blind person" means a person whose central visual acuity does not exceed 20/200 in the better eye with correcting lenses or whose visual acuity is greater than 20/200 but is accompanied by a limitation in the field of vision in the better eye to such a degree that the widest diameter of the visual field subtends an angle no greater than 20 degrees as determined by an ophthalmologist or a physician skilled in diseases of the eye.

(2) "Blind vendor" means a person certified as a blind person for the purpose of this part and who is operating a vending facility administered by the department.

(3) "Certified blind person" means a blind person whom the department has determined to be a blind person as defined in this part who is in need of vocational opportunities, and who is qualified to operate a vending facility.

(4) "Department" means the department of public health and human services.

(5) "Federal property" means buildings or portions of buildings or other real property owned or leased by the federal government excluding military reservations upon which the department may administer vending facilities by an agreement entered into under the authority of the federal Randolph-Sheppard Act, as amended.

(6) "Other property" means all real property other than state or federal property as defined in this part.

(7) "State property" means those buildings or portions of buildings or other real property owned or leased under a lease-purchase agreement, or in the case of a building, leased in its entirety by the state or agencies of the state that are utilized in the conduct of state matters and occupied principally by state employees. State property for the purpose of this part does not include vocational institutions or institutions of higher education.

(8) "Vending facility" means an area and equipment inclusive of vending machines on state property which is or may be utilized in providing a food, beverage, or other service to employees and other persons present on the property.

(9) "Vending machine" means a device for the dispensing of foodstuffs, liquids, or other products when money is inserted into the device. Vending machine does not include postage stamp machines or coin-operated telephones.

(10) "Vocational rehabilitation programs" means those programs provided for under the federal Randolph-Sheppard Act, as amended, and Title 53, chapter 7, part 3.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 175, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 64, Ch. 546, L. 1995.

18-5-403. Certification and eligibility of blind persons. (1) The department shall certify for the purposes of this part and the federal Randolph-Sheppard Act, as amended, those persons who are blind persons as defined in this part who the department has determined are in need of vocational opportunities and are qualified to operate vending facilities.

(2) Any person or vendor operating a vending facility under the auspices of the blind vendor program administered by the department prior to October 1, 1981, may be certified as a blind vendor for the purposes of this part.

(3) Only certified blind persons are eligible for the vocational opportunities provided in this part.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 175, L. 1981.

18-5-404. Vending facilities, equipment, and supplies -- available to certified blind persons. (1) The department may make available to a certified blind person a vending facility appropriate for providing that person with a business opportunity determined by the department to be suitable for that person.

(2) The department may, through the vocational rehabilitation programs it administers, provide by sale, lease, loan, or grant such equipment, stocks, and supplies as may be necessary for a blind vendor to establish or improve a vending facility business. The department shall retain a first option to repurchase any equipment it has sold to a blind vendor.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 175, L. 1981.

18-5-405. Right to fair hearing. A blind vendor is entitled to a fair hearing for any grievance against the department.

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 175, L. 1981.

18-5-406. Health and retirement fund -- services to vendors. (1) The department may manage a health and retirement fund for blind vendors.

(2) The department may set aside a reasonable percentage of the net incomes earned by blind vendors from the operation of vending facilities on state and other property administered by the department to fund the operation of vending facilities and to fund the blind vendors' health and retirement fund.

(3) The department may use all net income earned from facilities operated under the provisions of 18-5-415(2) and 18-5-416 to fund services to blind vendors and to fund the blind vendors' health and retirement fund.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 175, L. 1981.

18-5-407 through 18-5-410 reserved.

18-5-411. Administration of vending facilities -- state properties. (1) The department of administration or any other department of state government that administers state property subject to this part shall transfer to the department the management and control of any vending facility that the department has determined is an appropriate facility for the purposes of this part and that the department has determined is needed for the purposes of this part.

(2) A lease or contract for the operation of a vending facility entered into prior to October 1, 1981, is not subject to this part while the lease or contract remains in effect. In addition, this part may not be interpreted to require or authorize the failure to renew any contract for a vending facility on state property in effect on October 1, 1981, if the contract contains a provision permitting the renewal of the contract for a specific term at the option of the vendor or the state or both. In any case where the department determines that a private vendor operating a vending facility on state property on October 1, 1981, who but for this part could reasonably be expected to renew his contract for the vending facility, would be subjected to economic hardship should the contract be allowed to expire at the end of its term, the department may agree to a one-time renewal of that vendor's contract for the vending facility for a period not to exceed 4 years.

(3) The department of administration or any other department of state government that administers state property subject to this part shall give reasonable notice to the department of the expiration or termination of any lease or contract in effect for a vending facility.

(4) Upon receipt of the notice, the department shall give reasonable notice to the department of administration or other department of state government that sent the notice required in subsection (3) stating that the department has determined that the vending facility is either appropriate and needed for the purposes of this part or that it is not.

(5) A state agency administering state property shall consult with the department when planning for a new state building, planning for remodeling of or addition to an existing state building, or negotiating the lease of a building for state use, to determine what vending facilities might be appropriate for the site and plan for such vending facilities.

(6) The department shall administer those vending facilities which are determined to be appropriate and necessary.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 175, L. 1981.

18-5-412. Administration of vending facilities on other property. The department may enter into agreements with private parties or governmental entities not otherwise coming under the provisions of this part owning or controlling other property for the establishment and administration of blind vendor operations.

History: En. Sec. 9, Ch. 175, L. 1981.

18-5-413. Implementation of Randolph-Sheppard Act, as amended. (1) The department may enter into agreements with the federal government as provided for in the Randolph-Sheppard Act, as amended, for administering the Randolph-Sheppard Act for all state or federal purposes.

(2) The department may adopt rules to implement agreements with the federal government entered into under the Randolph-Sheppard Act, as amended.

History: En. Sec. 10, Ch. 175, L. 1981.

18-5-414. Authority to adopt rules. The department may adopt such rules as are necessary to effectuate this part.

History: En. Sec. 11, Ch. 175, L. 1981.

18-5-415. Operation of facilities. (1) The department is not subject to any requirements for competitive bidding on state leases or services to the state on vending facilities that are to be made available to certified blind persons or when purchasing initial supplies for the purpose of assisting a blind vendor.

(2) The department may temporarily operate a vending facility administered by the department if there is no certified blind person qualified to operate that facility.

(3) Neither a blind vendor nor the department is required to pay for rent, utilities, janitorial services in accessible public areas, or building maintenance costs for the space occupied by a vending facility on state property. The department may charge a use fee in lieu of rental, on a basis to be determined by the department, in the case of any blind vendor operating a vending facility on state property whose net income for at least 10 of the preceding 12 months has exceeded twice the poverty level income for a nonfarm family of four as determined by the federal government.

(4) The department may purchase, sell, lease, maintain, and manage as necessary the equipment, stocks, and supplies required for the operation of those vending facilities administered as provided for in this part.

(5) The department shall, by rule, provide for appropriate allocation between the department and the blind vendors of liability for the operation of vending facilities operated pursuant to this part.

(6) After consultation with departments that are served by vending facilities subject to this part, the department may take action as necessary to assure the quality of services being provided by blind vendors.

History: En. Secs. 5, 7, Ch. 175, L. 1981.

18-5-416. Vending machines. The department may, except on state property, directly or through contractual arrangements, operate a facility consisting solely of vending machines if it has determined that operation by a blind vendor would be inappropriate. The department shall not directly operate vending machines on any state property where the department does not directly operate vending machines on October 1, 1981, unless, after competitive bid, the department is unable to obtain a suitable private contractor to operate vending machines on the state property. The department shall not, except through competitive bid, authorize a blind vendor to operate on state property a vending facility which consists solely or primarily of vending machines and which does not require the active presence of a vendor during its hours of operation.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 175, L. 1981.

Part 5

Blind Person Preference

18-5-501. Definitions. For purposes of this part, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Blind person" means a person whose central visual acuity does not exceed 20/200 in the better eye with correcting lenses or whose visual acuity is greater than 20/200 but is accompanied by a limitation in the field of vision in the better eye to such a degree that the widest diameter of the visual field subtends an angle no greater than 20 degrees as determined by an ophthalmologist or a physician skilled in diseases of the eye.

(2) "Department" means the department of administration.

(3) "Purchasing agency" means any state agency authorized by Title 18, chapter 4, to enter into contracts.

(4) "Responsible bidder" means a person who has the capability in all respects to fully perform the requirements of a contract and has the integrity and reliability that assure good faith performance.

(5) (a) "State property" means a building or portion of a building or other real property that is:

(i) owned or leased by the state or an agency of the state;

(ii) utilized in the conduct of state matters; and

(iii) occupied principally by state employees.

(b) State property does not include vocational institutions or institutions of higher education.

(6) "Vending facility" means the area and equipment, including vending machines, on state property which are utilized in providing a food or beverage service to employees and other persons present on the property.

(7) "Vending machine" means a device for the dispensing of foodstuffs, liquids, or other products when money is inserted into the device. Vending machine does not include a postage stamp machine, photocopy machine, or coin-operated telephone.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 36, Sp. L. June 1986.

18-5-502. Preference to blind persons. (1) Whenever state property is proposed to be made available to private persons for use as a vending facility, if two or more substantially equal proposals submitted by responsible bidders are determined to most closely meet the purchasing agency's specifications and if one of the proposals has been submitted by a blind person, the contract must be awarded to the blind person.

(2) For purposes of this section, proposals are substantially equal if their overall ratings, as determined by the purchasing agency in accordance with the request for proposal, do not differ by more than 3%.

(3) Any contract awarded pursuant to this section to a blind person must prohibit transfer of the contract by sublease, assignment, or any other method.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 36, Sp. L. June 1986.

18-5-503. Application of state procurement law. Procurement under this part is subject to all other statutes governing state procurement except that in case of conflict the provisions of this part apply.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 36, Sp. L. June 1986.

18-5-504. Blind preference rules. The department shall adopt rules to implement this part.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 36, Sp. L. June 1986.