

**111—7.3(216D) State committee of blind vendors.** There is established a state committee of blind vendors which will advise and actively participate in routine, ongoing policy decisions made by the department in the management of the business enterprises program. The committee will hold a minimum of three meetings in each calendar year with the agenda for each meeting jointly prepared by the division administrator of the business enterprises program in consultation with the chairperson of the committee.

**7.3(1)** The committee shall:

*a.* Actively participate with the department in decisions and policy and program development decisions affecting the overall administration of the business enterprises program including, but not limited to, changes in longstanding policy, decisions to add or remove locations, decisions regarding terms of permits varying from the standard permits, and all other decisions or changes in decisions that will affect the earning potential or promotional opportunities for vendors in the program or those who join the program;

*b.* Receive and transmit to the department grievances at the request of vendors and serve as an advocate for vendors in connection with these grievances;

*c.* Actively participate with the department in the development and administration of a state system for the transfer or promotion of vendors;

*d.* Actively participate with the department in the development of training and retraining programs for vendors; and

*e.* Sponsor, with the assistance of the department, meetings and instructional conferences for vendors and trainees of the business enterprises program.

**7.3(2)** The committee shall be composed of five vendors who will be elected for two-year terms. One member shall be elected to serve as chairperson. There is no limit to the number of terms an individual may serve.

To the extent possible, the committee membership shall be fully representative of active licensees on the basis of geography and vending facility type, with a goal of providing for proportional representation of vendors on federal property and vendors on other property.

**7.3(3)** The division administrator of the business enterprises program will serve as an ex officio, nonvoting member of the committee.

**7.3(4)** If a member of the committee ceases to be an active licensee or resigns from the committee, a replacement shall be elected for the remainder of the unexpired term at the next statewide meeting of vendors.