
HOUSE BILL 1315

State of Washington

67th Legislature

2021 Regular Session

By Representatives Mosbrucker, Orwall, Ryu, Simmons, Leavitt, Sells, Wylie, Ortiz-Self, Davis, Valdez, J. Johnson, Ormsby, Rule, Lekanoff, Duerr, and Goodman

Read first time 01/20/21. Referred to Committee on Labor & Workplace Standards.

1 AN ACT Relating to creating a task force to identify the role of
2 the workplace in helping curb domestic violence; creating new
3 sections; and providing expiration dates.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that domestic
6 violence causes physical and psychological harm, broken families,
7 economic loss, and other societal ills. According to the center for
8 disease control's national intimate partner and sexual violence
9 survey, about one in three women and one in three men reported
10 experiencing intimate partner violence in their lifetime. In
11 Washington in 2017, over 54,000 domestic violence offenses were
12 reported to law enforcement and 49 domestic violence homicides were
13 committed.

14 (2) The legislature finds that the COVID-19 pandemic has
15 increased the severity of the domestic violence crisis and the
16 urgency of addressing the crisis. Economic independence is highly
17 correlated with preventing intimate partner violence, and the
18 pandemic has decreased opportunities for economic independence across
19 many groups. The increased gaps in childcare and social services
20 under the pandemic, along with increased isolation with abusers, have
21 exacerbated existing issues. Further, mandated closures and lockdowns

1 have decreased opportunities for community reporting of signs of
2 domestic abuse, such as by teachers or medical professionals, and
3 increased the bureaucratic difficulties in reporting processes.

4 (3) The legislature finds that the workplace may be the only
5 location in which an individual experiencing domestic violence may be
6 free from a perpetrator and feel safe. In either a physical or remote
7 environment, individuals experiencing domestic violence may also find
8 the workplace a place of shared confidences. Therefore, the
9 legislature intends to create a task force to explore ways in which
10 the employer and employee community may help curb domestic violence.

11 (4) This section expires June 30, 2023.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) The department of commerce shall
13 convene a task force on domestic violence and workplace resources to
14 identify the role of the workplace in helping to curb domestic
15 violence.

16 (2) The members of the task force are as provided in this
17 subsection. The department of commerce shall appoint:

18 (a) One member representing each of the following:

19 (i) The association of Washington business;

20 (ii) The national federation of independent business;

21 (iii) The Washington hospitality association;

22 (iv) The Washington retail association;

23 (v) The Washington state labor council;

24 (vi) The Washington coalition of sexual assault programs;

25 (vii) The Washington coalition against domestic violence; and

26 (viii) A federally recognized tribe;

27 (b) A business owner;

28 (c) A survivor of domestic violence; and

29 (d) Up to two additional members.

30 (3) The task force shall choose the chair or cochairs from among
31 its membership.

32 (4) The task force shall review the following issues:

33 (a) The role of the workplace in the lives of individuals
34 experiencing domestic violence;

35 (b) The appropriate role of employers and employees in helping
36 reduce the incidence of domestic violence; and

37 (c) Whether legislation is needed to address the issues outlined
38 in this subsection.

1 (5) The department of commerce shall convene the meetings and
2 provide staff support for the task force.

3 (6) The task force shall submit:

4 (a) A preliminary report with its findings and recommendations to
5 the appropriate committees of the legislature by December 1, 2021;
6 and

7 (b) A final report with its findings and recommendations to the
8 appropriate committees of the legislature by December 1, 2022.

9 (7) This section expires June 30, 2023.

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