
HOUSE BILL 2820

State of Washington

55th Legislature

1998 Regular Session

By Representatives Cooke, Cody, Ballasiotes, McDonald, Dyer, Boldt, Cole, Chopp, Alexander, Talcott, D. Schmidt, Parlette, Kastama, Mitchell, Mason, Poulsen, Kenney, Conway, Wood, Tokuda, Scott and Costa

Read first time 01/20/98. Referred to Committee on Government Administration.

1 AN ACT Relating to supported employment; amending RCW 41.04.750 and
2 41.04.760; and amending 1997 c 287 s 1 (uncodified).

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

4 **Sec. 1.** 1997 c 287 s 1 (uncodified) is amended to read as follows:

5 The legislature finds that the rate of unemployment among persons
6 with (~~developmental~~) severe disabilities is high due to the limited
7 employment opportunities available to (~~disabled persons~~) them. Given
8 that persons with severe disabilities are capable of filling employment
9 positions in the general work force population, supported employment is
10 an effective way of integrating such individuals into the general work
11 force population. The creation of supported employment programs can
12 increase the types and availability of employment positions for persons
13 with (~~developmental~~) severe disabilities.

14 **Sec. 2.** RCW 41.04.750 and 1997 c 287 s 2 are each amended to read
15 as follows:

16 Unless the context clearly requires otherwise the definitions in
17 this section apply throughout RCW 41.04.760 through 41.04.780.

1 (1) "~~((Developmental))~~ Severe disability" means a disability as
2 defined in ~~((RCW 71A.10.020))~~ 29 U.S.C. Sec. 706(18)(A) and in 34
3 C.F.R. Sec. 361.5(45).

4 (2) "~~Supported employment~~" means ~~((employment for individuals with~~
5 ~~developmental disabilities who may require on the job training and~~
6 ~~long term support in order to fulfill their job duties successfully.~~
7 ~~Supported employment offers the same wages and benefits as similar~~
8 ~~nonsupported employment positions))~~ competitive employment in an
9 integrated setting with ongoing support services for individuals with
10 the most severe disabilities.

11 (3) "State agency" means any office, department, division, bureau,
12 board, commission, community college or institution of higher
13 education, or agency of the state of Washington.

14 **Sec. 3.** RCW 41.04.760 and 1997 c 287 s 3 are each amended to read
15 as follows:

16 State agencies are encouraged to participate in supported
17 employment activities. The department of social and health services,
18 in conjunction with the department of personnel and the office of
19 financial management, shall identify agencies that have positions and
20 funding conducive to implementing supported employment. An agency may
21 only participate in supported employment activities pursuant to this
22 section if the agency is able to operate the program within its
23 existing budget. These agencies shall:

24 (1) Designate a coordinator who will be responsible for information
25 and resource referral regarding the agency's supported employment
26 program. The coordinator shall serve as a liaison between the agency
27 and the department of personnel regarding supported employment;

28 (2) Submit an annual update to the department of social and health
29 services, the department of personnel, and the office of financial
30 management. The annual update shall include: A description of the
31 agency's supported employment efforts, the number of persons placed in
32 supported employment positions, ~~((recommendations concerning expanding~~
33 ~~the supported employment program to include people with mental~~
34 ~~disabilities or other disabilities,))~~ and an overall evaluation of the
35 effectiveness of supported employment for the agency.

--- END ---