
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6298

State of Washington

55th Legislature

1998 Regular Session

By Senate Committee on Commerce & Labor (originally sponsored by Senators B. Sheldon, Winsley, Rasmussen, Anderson, Snyder and Oke)

Read first time 02/05/98. Referred to Committee on .

1 AN ACT Relating to self-employment for unemployed claimants; adding
2 a new chapter to Title 50 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that the establishment
5 of a self-employment assistance program would assist unemployed
6 individuals and create new businesses and job opportunities in
7 Washington state. The commissioner is directed to inform individuals
8 identified as likely to exhaust regular unemployment benefits of the
9 opportunity to enroll in commissioner-approved self-employment
10 assistance programs.

11 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) An unemployed individual is eligible to
12 participate in a self-employment assistance program if it has been
13 determined that he or she:

14 (a) Is otherwise eligible for regular unemployment benefits as
15 defined in RCW 50.22.010(5);

16 (b) Has been identified as likely to exhaust regular unemployment
17 benefits under a profiling system established by the commissioner as
18 defined in P.L. 103-152;

1 (c) Is enrolled in a self-employment assistance program that is
2 approved by the commissioner, and includes entrepreneurial training,
3 business counseling, technical assistance, and requirements to engage
4 in activities relating to the establishment of a business and becoming
5 self-employed.

6 (2) Individuals participating in a self-employment assistance
7 program approved by the commissioner are eligible to receive their
8 regular unemployment benefits.

9 (a) The requirements of RCW 50.20.010(3) and 50.20.080 relating to
10 availability for work, active search for work, and refusal to accept
11 suitable work are not applicable to an individual in the self-
12 employment assistance program for the first fifty-two weeks of the
13 individual's participation in the program.

14 (b) An individual who meets the requirements of this chapter is
15 considered to be "unemployed" under RCW 50.04.310 and 50.20.010.

16 (3) An individual who fails to participate in his or her approved
17 self-employment assistance program as prescribed by the commissioner is
18 disqualified from continuation in the program.

19 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The commissioner shall take all steps
20 necessary in carrying out this chapter to assure collaborative
21 involvement of interested parties in program development, and to ensure
22 that the self-employment assistance programs meet all federal criteria
23 for withdrawal from the unemployment fund. The commissioner may
24 approve, as self-employment assistance programs, existing self-
25 employment training programs available through community colleges,
26 private industry councils, or other organizations and is not obligated
27 by chapter . . . , Laws of 1998 (this act) to expend any departmental
28 funds for the operation of self-employment assistance programs, unless
29 specific funding is provided to the department for that purpose through
30 federal or state appropriations.

31 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** The commissioner may adopt rules as
32 necessary to implement this chapter.

33 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** If any part of this act is found to be in
34 conflict with federal requirements that are a prescribed condition to
35 the allocation of federal funds to the state or the eligibility of
36 employers in this state for federal unemployment tax credits, the

1 conflicting part of this act is inoperative solely to the extent of the
2 conflict, and such finding or determination does not affect the
3 operation of the remainder of this act. Rules adopted under this act
4 must meet federal requirements that are a necessary condition to the
5 receipt of federal funds by the state or the granting of federal
6 unemployment tax credits to employers in this state.

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** Sections 1 through 4 of this act constitute
8 a new chapter in Title 50 RCW.

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