
SUBSTITUTE SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 8407

State of Washington

55th Legislature

1998 Regular Session

By Senate Committee on Commerce & Labor (originally sponsored by Senators Franklin, Schow, Heavey and Fraser)

Read first time 02/03/98.

1 WHEREAS, Over the past fifteen years, the national and state
2 economy has witnessed an enormous growth in permanent workers being
3 replaced by "contingent workers," workers who are temporary and
4 involuntary part-time workers, workers on-call, leased workers, day
5 laborers, the self-employed, and "independent" contract workers; and

6 WHEREAS, During this same period, national statistics disclose a
7 decline in wages for a large majority of wage earners, a loss in
8 individual and family benefits, and an increase in employment
9 insecurity; and

10 WHEREAS, Although reports suggest that the growth in the contingent
11 work force is a serious problem, there has been no comprehensive study
12 of Washington's contingent work force to learn the impact that this
13 phenomenon has had on individuals and families, local economies, and
14 the state economy;

15 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, By the Senate of the state of
16 Washington, the House of Representatives concurring, That a study of
17 the contingent work force be conducted to review and make
18 recommendations on the following issues with respect to Washington's
19 contingent work force:

20 How many workers, in both the private and public sector, are part
21 of the contingent work force;

1 What has been the growth rate of the contingent work force;
2 What is the demographic breakdown of the contingent work force;
3 What is the wage and benefit profile of the contingent work force;
4 What is the industrial and geographical breakdown of the contingent
5 work force;

6 What are the explanations for the growth of the contingent work
7 force;

8 What impact has the growth of the contingent work force had on
9 employees and their families, the state's local economies, and the
10 state economy;

11 Which state and federal laws, if any, provide for a different level
12 of employee benefits based on the number of hours per week a person
13 works or on the permanence of his or her employment;

14 To what extent are employer provided/contract benefits based on the
15 number of hours per week a person works or on the permanence of his or
16 her employment;

17 How has the growth of the contingent work force impacted social
18 services;

19 What legislative proposals, at either the federal or state level,
20 are being offered to address the concerns raised by the growth of the
21 contingent work force; and

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the study be conducted by a contingent
23 work force task force composed of one member from each caucus of the
24 Senate, each member being a member of the Senate commerce and labor
25 committee, appointed by the President of the Senate; one member from
26 each caucus of the House of Representatives, each member being a member
27 of the House of Representatives commerce and labor committee, appointed
28 by the Speaker of the House of Representatives; representatives of the
29 department of labor and industries, including staff from the employment
30 standards program and from SHARP, the employment security department,
31 the work force training and education coordinating board, the
32 department of social and health services, and the office of financial
33 management. The department of labor and industries shall be the lead
34 agency; and

35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the task force shall consult with and
36 be advised and monitored by an advisory committee consisting of eight
37 members: Four members representing labor, appointed jointly by the
38 President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of
39 Representatives, from a list of names recommended by a state-wide

1 organization representing a cross-section and majority of organized
2 labor in the state; and four members representing business, appointed
3 jointly by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of
4 Representatives, from a list of names recommended by a state-wide
5 organization of employers representing a majority of employers of the
6 state; and

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the department of labor and industries
8 report the findings and recommendations of the contingent work force
9 task force study to the commerce and labor committees of the Senate and
10 House of Representatives by December 1, 1998; and

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the contingent work force task force
12 expires July 1, 1999.

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