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**SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1811**

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**State of Washington**

**56th Legislature**

**1999 Regular Session**

**By** House Committee on Children & Family Services (originally sponsored by Representatives Tokuda, Boldt, D. Sommers, Kenney and Ogden; by request of Department of Social and Health Services)

Read first time 02/26/1999.

1 AN ACT Relating to supported employment; amending RCW 41.04.750,  
2 41.04.760, and 41.04.770; 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  
6 ~~((persons))~~ individuals with developmental disabilities or other  
7 significant disabilities is high due to the limited employment  
8 opportunities available to ~~((disabled persons))~~ them. Given that  
9 ~~((persons))~~ individuals with developmental disabilities or other  
10 significant disabilities are capable of filling employment positions in  
11 the general work force population, supported employment is an effective  
12 way of integrating such individuals into the general work force  
13 population. The creation of supported employment programs can increase  
14 the types and availability of employment positions for ~~((persons))~~  
15 individuals with developmental disabilities or other significant  
16 disabilities.

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

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

3 (1) "Developmental disability" means a disability as defined in RCW  
4 71A.10.020.

5 (2) "Significant disability" means a disability as defined in 29  
6 U.S.C. Sec. 705.

7 (3) "Supported employment" means employment for individuals with  
8 developmental disabilities or other significant disabilities who  
9 ((may)) require on-the-job training and long-term support in order to  
10 fulfill their job duties successfully. Supported employment offers the  
11 same wages and benefits as similar nonsupported employment positions.

12 ((+3)) (4) "State agency" means any office, department, division,  
13 bureau, board, commission, community college or institution of higher  
14 education, or agency of the state of Washington.

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

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

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

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

1       **Sec. 4.** RCW 41.04.770 and 1997 c 287 s 4 are each amended to read  
2 as follows:

3       The department of social and health services and the department of  
4 personnel shall, after consultation with supported employment provider  
5 associations and other interested parties, encourage, educate, and  
6 assist state agencies in implementing supported employment programs.  
7 The department of social and health services shall maintain information  
8 regarding the number of supported employment placements by type of  
9 disability. The department of personnel shall provide human resources  
10 technical assistance to agencies implementing supported employment  
11 programs. The department of personnel shall make available, upon  
12 request of the legislature, an annual report that evaluates the overall  
13 progress of supported employment in state government.

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