
SENATE BILL 5524

State of Washington 64th Legislature 2015 Regular Session

By Senators Sheldon, Rivers, Parlette, Angel, Bailey, Becker, Warnick, Honeyford, Brown, Dammeier, and Conway

Read first time 01/23/15. Referred to Committee on Government Operations & State Security.

1 AN ACT Relating to enhancing the employment of persons with
2 disabilities; adding a new section to chapter 43.41 RCW; and creating
3 new sections.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that seven percent
6 of the state's population consists of persons with disabilities, that
7 persons with disabilities suffer significantly higher rates of
8 unemployment and underemployment than in the general population, and
9 that representation of disabled persons in the state workforce has
10 declined in recent years. The legislature further finds that there is
11 no policy similar to Schedule A in the federal civil service system
12 for priority hiring of persons with disabilities. The legislature
13 further finds that state government human resource managers do not
14 coordinate with the department of social and health services'
15 division of vocational rehabilitation or division of services for the
16 blind regarding opportunities to employ persons with disabilities.
17 Therefore, the legislature intends to increase the hiring of persons
18 with disabilities in the state workforce.

19 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 43.41
20 RCW to read as follows:

1 (1) By January 31st of each year, state agencies employing one
2 hundred or more people must submit a report to the human resources
3 director within the office of financial management, with copies to
4 the director of the department of social and health services'
5 division of vocational rehabilitation and the governor's committee on
6 disabilities and employment.

7 (2) The report must include the following information:

8 (a) The number of employees during the previous calendar year;

9 (b) The number of employees classified as individuals with
10 disabilities;

11 (c) The number of employees that separated during the state
12 agency the previous year;

13 (d) The number of employees that were hired by the state agency
14 during the previous year;

15 (e) The number of employees hired from a division of vocational
16 rehabilitation services or from the division of the services for the
17 blind program during the previous year;

18 (f) The number of planned hires for the current year; and

19 (g) Opportunities for internships for a division of vocational
20 rehabilitation or division of the services for the blind client
21 placement leading to an entry-level position placement upon
22 successful completion for the current year.

23 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** This act may be known and cited as the
24 state employment disability parity act.

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