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**SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1812**

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**State of Washington**

**66th Legislature**

**2019 Regular Session**

**By** House Housing, Community Development & Veterans (originally sponsored by Representatives Reeves, Leavitt, Kilduff, Appleton, Lovick, and Stanford)

READ FIRST TIME 02/21/19.

1 AN ACT Relating to the military spouse equal economic opportunity  
2 act; amending RCW 18.340.020, 73.16.010, 73.16.110, 49.74.005,  
3 41.06.530, 73.16.120, 82.04.4498, 82.16.0499, 50.62.020, and  
4 50.62.030; adding a new section to chapter 43.330 RCW; adding a new  
5 section to chapter 39.19 RCW; creating a new section; and providing  
6 an expiration date.

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

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** This act may be known and cited as the  
9 military spouse equal economic opportunity act.

10 **Sec. 2.** RCW 18.340.020 and 2011 2nd sp.s. c 5 s 2 are each  
11 amended to read as follows:

12 (1) (~~For the purposes of this section, "authority" means any~~  
13 ~~board, commission, or other authority for issuance of a license,~~  
14 ~~certificate, registration, or permit under this title.~~

15 ~~(2) To the extent resources are available:~~

16 ~~(a))~~ Each authority shall establish procedures to expedite the  
17 issuance of ((a)) standard and provisional licenses, certificates,  
18 registrations, or permits to perform professional services regulated  
19 by each such authority to ((a person:

1 ~~(i) Who is certified or licensed, certified, or registered, or~~  
2 ~~has a permit in another state to perform professional services in~~  
3 ~~that state;~~

4 ~~(ii) Whose spouse is the subject of a military transfer to~~  
5 ~~Washington; and~~

6 ~~(iii) Who left employment in the other state to accompany the~~  
7 ~~person's spouse to Washington.~~

8 ~~(b) The procedure must include a process for issuing the person a~~  
9 ~~license, certificate, registration, or permit, if, in the opinion of~~  
10 ~~the authority, the requirements for licensure, certification,~~  
11 ~~registration, or obtaining a permit of such other state are~~  
12 ~~substantially equivalent to that required in Washington.~~

13 ~~(c) Each authority in this title shall develop a method and adopt~~  
14 ~~rules to authorize a person who meets the criteria in (a) (i) through~~  
15 ~~(iii) of this subsection to perform services regulated by the~~  
16 ~~authority in Washington by issuing the person a temporary license,~~  
17 ~~certificate, registration, or permit for a limited period of time to~~  
18 ~~allow the person to perform services regulated by the authority while~~  
19 ~~completing any specific additional requirements in Washington that~~  
20 ~~are not related to training or practice standards of the profession~~  
21 ~~that were not required in the other state in which the person is~~  
22 ~~licensed, certified, or registered, or has a permit)) active duty~~  
23 ~~military spouses who relocate to Washington state and possess~~  
24 ~~substantially equivalent authorization.~~

25 (2) Nothing in this section requires the authority to issue a  
26 ((temporary)) license, certificate, registration, or permit if the:

27 (a) Standards of the other state are substantially unequal to  
28 Washington standards ((-

29 ~~(d) An applicant must state in the application that he or she:~~

30 ~~(i) Has requested verification from the other state or states~~  
31 ~~that the person is currently licensed, certified, registered, or has~~  
32 ~~a permit; and~~

33 ~~(ii) Is not)); or~~

34 (b) Person is subject to any pending investigation, charges, or  
35 disciplinary action by the regulatory body of ((the other)) another  
36 state or ((states)) territory of the United States.

37 ~~((e)) (3) If the authority finds reasonable cause to believe~~  
38 ~~that an applicant falsely ((affirmed or stated either of the~~  
39 ~~requirements under (d) (i) or (ii) of this subsection)) provided~~  
40 ~~information, the authority may summarily suspend the license,~~

1 certificate, registration, or permit pending an investigation or  
2 further action to discipline or revoke the license, certificate,  
3 registration, or permit.

4 (4) For the purposes of this section:

5 (a) "Active duty military spouse" means any person currently  
6 married to someone who is an active or reserve member in any branch  
7 of the armed forces of the United States, including the national  
8 guard, coast guard, and armed forces reserves.

9 (b) "Authority" means any board, commission, or other authority  
10 for issuance of a license, certificate, registration, or permit under  
11 this title.

12 (c) "Provisional license, certificate, registration, or permit"  
13 means immediate authorization to perform the full range of activities  
14 allowed with a standard license, certificate, registration, or  
15 permit:

16 (i) Under the supervision of a person with a standard Washington  
17 state license, certificate, registration, or permit; and

18 (ii) For a period of three years, or the duration of a standard  
19 license, certificate, registration, or permit if less than three  
20 years.

21 (d) "Substantially equivalent authorization" means a license,  
22 certificate, registration, or permit to practice a profession from  
23 another state or territory of the United States that uses  
24 requirements comparable to those used in Washington state.

25 **Sec. 3.** RCW 73.16.010 and 1975 1st ex.s. c 198 s 1 are each  
26 amended to read as follows:

27 In every public department, and upon all public works of the  
28 state, and of any county thereof, honorably discharged soldiers,  
29 sailors, and marines who are veterans of any war of the United  
30 States, or of any military campaign for which a campaign ribbon shall  
31 have been awarded, and their widows or widowers, shall be preferred  
32 for appointment and employment. Age, loss of limb, or other physical  
33 impairment, which does not in fact incapacitate, shall not be deemed  
34 to disqualify them, provided they possess the capacity necessary to  
35 discharge the duties of the position involved: PROVIDED, That  
36 (~~spouses of honorably discharged veterans who have a service~~  
37 ~~connected permanent and total disability~~) military spouses shall  
38 also be preferred for appointment and employment.

1       **Sec. 4.** RCW 73.16.110 and 2011 c 144 s 1 are each amended to  
2 read as follows:

3       (1) The legislature intends to establish a permissive preference  
4 in private employment for certain veterans and military spouses.

5       (2) In every private, nonpublic employment in this state,  
6 honorably discharged soldiers, sailors, and marines who are veterans  
7 of any war of the United States, or of any military campaign for  
8 which a campaign ribbon has been awarded(~~(, and their widows or~~  
9 ~~widowers))~~), may be preferred for employment. (~~(Spouses of honorably~~  
10 ~~discharged veterans who have a service connected permanent and total~~  
11 ~~disability))~~ Military spouses may also be preferred for employment.  
12 These preferences are not considered violations of any state or local  
13 equal employment opportunity law, including but not limited to any  
14 statute or regulation adopted under chapter 49.60 RCW.

15       (3) For the purposes of this section:

16       (a) "Military spouse" means any person currently or previously  
17 married to a military service member during the military service  
18 member's time of active duty. Active duty may have been in any branch  
19 of the armed forces of the United States, including the national  
20 guard, coast guard, and armed forces reserves.

21       (b) "Veteran" has the same meanings as defined in RCW 41.04.005  
22 and 41.04.007, and includes a current member of the national guard or  
23 armed forces reserves who has been deployed to serve in an armed  
24 conflict.

25       **Sec. 5.** RCW 49.74.005 and 1985 c 365 s 7 are each amended to  
26 read as follows:

27       Discrimination because of race, creed, color, national origin,  
28 age, sex, marital status, military spouse status, or the presence of  
29 any sensory, mental, or physical handicap is contrary to the findings  
30 of the legislature and public policy. The legislature finds and  
31 declares that racial minorities, women, persons in protected age  
32 groups, persons with disabilities, Vietnam-era veterans, (~~and~~  
33 ~~disabled~~) veterans with disabilities, and military spouses are  
34 underrepresented in Washington state government employment.

35       The purpose of this chapter is to provide for enforcement  
36 measures for affirmative action within Washington state government  
37 employment and institutions of higher education in order to eliminate  
38 such underrepresentation.

1       **Sec. 6.** RCW 41.06.530 and 2011 1st sp.s. c 43 s 429 are each  
2 amended to read as follows:

3       (1) The legislature recognizes that:

4       (a) The labor market and the state government workforce are  
5 diverse in terms of gender, race, ethnicity, age, military spouse  
6 status, and the presence of disabilities.

7       (b) The state's personnel resource and management practices must  
8 be responsive to the diverse nature of its workforce composition.

9       (c) Managers in all agencies play a key role in the  
10 implementation of all critical personnel policies.

11       It is therefore the policy of the state to create an  
12 organizational culture in state government that respects and values  
13 individual differences and encourages the productive potential of  
14 every employee.

15       (2) To implement this policy:

16       (a) The office of financial management shall, in consultation  
17 with agencies, employee organizations, employees, institutions of  
18 higher education, and related boards, review civil service rules and  
19 related policies to ensure that they support the state's policy of  
20 valuing and managing diversity in the workplace; and

21       (b) The department of enterprise services, in consultation with  
22 agencies, employee organizations, and employees, institutions of  
23 higher education, and related boards, develop training programs for  
24 all managers to enhance their ability to implement diversity policies  
25 and to provide a thorough grounding in all aspects of the state civil  
26 service law and merit system rules, and how the proper implementation  
27 and application thereof can facilitate and further the mission of the  
28 agency.

29       (3) The department of enterprise services and the office of  
30 financial management shall coordinate implementation of this section  
31 with the institutions of higher education and related boards to  
32 reduce duplication of effort.

33       **Sec. 7.** RCW 73.16.120 and 2015 c 57 s 2 are each amended to read  
34 as follows:

35       (1) The department of veterans affairs, employment security  
36 department, and department of commerce shall consult local chambers  
37 of commerce, associate development organizations, and businesses to  
38 initiate a demonstration campaign to increase veteran and military  
39 spouse employment. This campaign may include partnerships with

1 chambers of commerce that result in business owners sharing, with the  
2 local chamber of commerce, information on the number of veterans  
3 employed and the local chambers of commerce providing this  
4 information to the department of veterans affairs.

5 (2) The department of veterans affairs, employment security  
6 department, and department of commerce shall develop and deliver  
7 training and other resources for employers addressing:

8 (a) The elimination of barriers to military spouse employment;  
9 and

10 (b) Strategies for recruiting and retaining military spouse  
11 employees.

12 (3) Participants in the campaign are encouraged to work with the  
13 Washington state military transition council and county veterans'  
14 advisory boards as defined in RCW 73.08.035.

15 ~~((3) Funding for the campaign shall be established from existing~~  
16 ~~resources.))~~

17 (4) For the purposes of this section((7)):

18 (a) "Military spouse" means any person currently or previously  
19 married to a military service member during the military service  
20 member's time of active duty. Active duty may have been in any branch  
21 of the armed forces of the United States, including the national  
22 guard, coast guard, and armed forces reserves.

23 (b) "Veteran" means any veteran discharged under honorable  
24 conditions.

25 **Sec. 8.** RCW 82.04.4498 and 2015 3rd sp.s. c 6 s 1002 are each  
26 amended to read as follows:

27 (1) A person is allowed a credit against the tax due under this  
28 chapter as provided in this section. The credit equals twenty percent  
29 of wages and benefits paid to or on behalf of a qualified employee up  
30 to a maximum of one thousand five hundred dollars for each qualified  
31 employee hired on or after October 1, 2016.

32 (2) No credit may be claimed under this section until a qualified  
33 employee has been employed for at least two consecutive full calendar  
34 quarters.

35 (3) Credits are available on a first-in-time basis. The  
36 department must keep a running total of all credits allowed under  
37 this section and RCW 82.16.0499 during each fiscal year. The  
38 department may not allow any credits that would cause the total  
39 credits allowed under this section and RCW 82.16.0499 to exceed five

1 hundred thousand dollars in any fiscal year. If all or part of a  
2 claim for credit is disallowed under this subsection, the disallowed  
3 portion is carried over to the next fiscal year. However, the  
4 carryover into the next fiscal year is only permitted to the extent  
5 that the cap for the next fiscal year is not exceeded. Priority must  
6 be given to credits carried over from a previous fiscal year. The  
7 department must provide written notice to any person who has claimed  
8 tax credits in excess of the limitation in this subsection. The  
9 notice must indicate the amount of tax due and provide that the tax  
10 be paid within thirty days from the date of the notice. The  
11 department may not assess penalties and interest as provided in  
12 chapter 82.32 RCW on the amount due in the initial notice if the  
13 amount due is paid by the due date specified in the notice, or any  
14 extension thereof.

15 (4) The credit may be used against any tax due under this  
16 chapter, and may be carried over until used, except as provided in  
17 subsection (9) of this section. No refunds may be granted for credits  
18 under this section.

19 (5) If an employer discharges a qualified employee for whom the  
20 employer has claimed a credit under this section, the employer may  
21 not claim a new credit under this section for a period of one year  
22 from the date the qualified employee was discharged. However, this  
23 subsection (5) does not apply if the qualified employee was  
24 discharged for misconduct, as defined in RCW 50.04.294, connected  
25 with his or her work or discharged due to a felony or gross  
26 misdemeanor conviction, and the employer contemporaneously documents  
27 the reason for discharge.

28 (6) Credits earned under this section may be claimed only on  
29 returns filed electronically with the department using the  
30 department's online tax filing service or other method of electronic  
31 reporting as the department may authorize. No application is required  
32 to claim the credit, but the taxpayer must keep records necessary for  
33 the department to determine eligibility under this section including  
34 records establishing the person's status as a veteran or military  
35 spouse and status as unemployed when hired by the taxpayer.

36 (7) No person may claim a credit against taxes due under both  
37 this chapter and chapter 82.16 RCW for the same qualified employee.

38 (8) The definitions in this subsection apply throughout this  
39 section unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

1 (a) "Military spouse" means any person currently or previously  
2 married to a military service member during the military service  
3 member's time of active duty. Active duty may have been in any branch  
4 of the armed forces of the United States, including the national  
5 guard, coast guard, and armed forces reserves.

6 (b)(i) "Qualified employee" means an unemployed veteran or  
7 military spouse who is employed in a permanent full-time position for  
8 at least two consecutive full calendar quarters. For seasonal  
9 employers, "qualified employee" also includes the equivalent of a  
10 full-time employee in work hours for two consecutive full calendar  
11 quarters.

12 (ii) For purposes of this subsection (8)(~~(a)~~) (b), "full time"  
13 means a normal workweek of at least thirty-five hours.

14 (~~(b)~~) (c) "Unemployed" means that the veteran or military  
15 spouse was unemployed as defined in RCW 50.04.310 for at least thirty  
16 days immediately preceding the date that the veteran or military  
17 spouse was hired by the person claiming credit under this section for  
18 hiring the veteran or military spouse.

19 (~~(e)~~) (d) "Veteran" means every person who has received an  
20 honorable discharge or received a general discharge under honorable  
21 conditions or is currently serving honorably, and who has served as a  
22 member in any branch of the armed forces of the United States,  
23 including the national guard and armed forces reserves.

24 (9) Credits allowed under this section can be earned for tax  
25 reporting periods through June 30, 2022. No credits can be claimed  
26 after June 30, 2023.

27 (10) This section expires July 1, 2023.

28 **Sec. 9.** RCW 82.16.0499 and 2015 3rd sp.s. c 6 s 1003 are each  
29 amended to read as follows:

30 (1) A person is allowed a credit against the tax due under this  
31 chapter as provided in this section. The credit equals twenty percent  
32 of wages and benefits paid to or on behalf of a qualified employee up  
33 to a maximum of one thousand five hundred dollars for each qualified  
34 employee hired on or after October 1, 2016.

35 (2) No credit may be claimed under this section until a qualified  
36 employee has been employed for at least two consecutive full calendar  
37 quarters.

38 (3) Credits are available on a first-in-time basis. The  
39 department must keep a running total of all credits allowed under



1 this section and RCW 82.04.4498 during each fiscal year. The  
2 department may not allow any credits that would cause the total  
3 credits allowed under this section and RCW 82.04.4498 to exceed five  
4 hundred thousand dollars in any fiscal year. If all or part of a  
5 claim for credit is disallowed under this subsection, the disallowed  
6 portion is carried over to the next fiscal year. However, the  
7 carryover into the next fiscal year is only permitted to the extent  
8 that the cap for the next fiscal year is not exceeded. Priority must  
9 be given to credits carried over from a previous fiscal year. The  
10 department must provide written notice to any person who has claimed  
11 tax credits in excess of the limitation in this subsection. The  
12 notice must indicate the amount of tax due and provide that the tax  
13 be paid within thirty days from the date of the notice. The  
14 department may not assess penalties and interest as provided in  
15 chapter 82.32 RCW on the amount due in the initial notice if the  
16 amount due is paid by the due date specified in the notice, or any  
17 extension thereof.

18 (4) The credit may be used against any tax due under this  
19 chapter, and may be carried over until used, except as provided in  
20 subsection (9) of this section. No refunds may be granted for credits  
21 under this section.

22 (5) If an employer discharges a qualified employee for whom the  
23 employer has claimed a credit under this section, the employer may  
24 not claim a new credit under this section for a period of one year  
25 from the date the qualified employee was discharged. However, this  
26 subsection (5) does not apply if the qualified employee was  
27 discharged for misconduct, as defined in RCW 50.04.294, connected  
28 with his or her work or discharged due to a felony or gross  
29 misdemeanor conviction, and the employer contemporaneously documents  
30 the reason for discharge.

31 (6) Credits earned under this section may be claimed only on  
32 returns filed electronically with the department using the  
33 department's online tax filing service or other method of electronic  
34 reporting as the department may authorize. No application is required  
35 to claim the credit, but the taxpayer must keep records necessary for  
36 the department to determine eligibility under this section including  
37 records establishing the person's status as a veteran or military  
38 spouse and status as unemployed when hired by the taxpayer.

39 (7) No person may claim a credit against taxes due under both  
40 chapter 82.04 RCW and this chapter for the same qualified employee.

1 (8) The definitions in this subsection apply throughout this  
2 section unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

3 (a) "Military spouse" means any person currently or previously  
4 married to a military service member during the member's time of  
5 active duty. Active duty may have been in any branch of the armed  
6 forces of the United States, including the national guard, coast  
7 guard, and armed forces reserves.

8 (b)(i) "Qualified employee" means an unemployed veteran or  
9 military spouse who is employed in a permanent full-time position for  
10 at least two consecutive full calendar quarters. For seasonal  
11 employers, "qualified employee" also includes the equivalent of a  
12 full-time employee in work hours for two consecutive full calendar  
13 quarters.

14 (ii) For purposes of this subsection (8) ~~((a))~~ (b), "full time"  
15 means a normal workweek of at least thirty-five hours.

16 ~~((b))~~ (c) "Unemployed" means that the veteran or military  
17 spouse was unemployed as defined in RCW 50.04.310 for at least thirty  
18 days immediately preceding the date that the veteran or military  
19 spouse was hired by the person claiming credit under this section for  
20 hiring the veteran or military spouse.

21 ~~((e))~~ (d) "Veteran" means every person who has received an  
22 honorable discharge or received a general discharge under honorable  
23 conditions or is currently serving honorably, and who has served as a  
24 member in any branch of the armed forces of the United States,  
25 including the national guard and armed forces reserves.

26 (9) Credits allowed under this section can be earned for tax  
27 reporting periods through June 30, 2022. No credits can be claimed  
28 after June 30, 2023.

29 (10) This section expires July 1, 2023.

30 **Sec. 10.** RCW 50.62.020 and 1987 c 284 s 2 are each amended to  
31 read as follows:

32 Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in  
33 this section apply throughout this chapter.

34 (1) "Job service" means the employment assistance program of the  
35 employment security department.

36 (2) "Employment assistance" means services to unemployed persons  
37 focused on and measured by the obtaining of employment.

1 (3) "Labor exchange" means those activities which match labor  
2 supply and labor demand, including recruitment, screening, and  
3 referral of qualified workers to employers.

4 (4) "Special account of the administrative contingency fund"  
5 means that fund under RCW 50.24.014 established within the  
6 administrative contingency fund of the employment security department  
7 which provides revenue for the purposes of this chapter.

8 (5) "Continuous wage and benefit history" means an information  
9 and research system utilizing a longitudinal database containing  
10 information on both employment and unemployment.

11 (6) "Long-term unemployed" means demographic groups of  
12 unemployment insurance claimants identified by the employment  
13 security department pursuant to RCW 50.62.040(1)(e) which have the  
14 highest percentages of persons who have drawn at least fifteen weeks  
15 of unemployment insurance benefits or have the highest percentage of  
16 persons who have exhausted their unemployment insurance benefits.

17 (7) "Older unemployed workers" means unemployment insurance  
18 claimants who are at least fifty years of age.

19 (8) "Military spouses" means any person currently or previously  
20 married to a military service member during the military service  
21 member's time of active duty. Active duty may have been in any branch  
22 of the armed forces of the United States, including the national  
23 guard, coast guard, and armed forces reserves.

24 **Sec. 11.** RCW 50.62.030 and 2017 c 39 s 10 are each amended to  
25 read as follows:

26 (1) Job service resources must be used to assist with the  
27 reemployment of unemployed workers using the most efficient and  
28 effective means of service delivery. The job service program of the  
29 employment security department may undertake any program or activity  
30 for which funds are available and which furthers the goals of this  
31 chapter. These programs and activities must include, but are not  
32 limited to:

33 (a) Giving older unemployed workers ~~((and))~~ the long-term  
34 unemployed, and military spouses the highest priority for all  
35 services made available under this section. The employment security  
36 department must make the services provided under this chapter  
37 available to the older unemployed workers ~~((and))~~ the long-term  
38 unemployed, and military spouses as soon as they register under the  
39 employment assistance program;

1 (b) Supplementing basic employment services, with special job  
2 search and claimant placement assistance designed to assist  
3 unemployment insurance claimants to obtain employment;

4 (c) Providing employment services, such as recruitment,  
5 screening, and referral of qualified workers, to agricultural areas  
6 where these services have in the past contributed to positive  
7 economic conditions for the agricultural industry; and

8 (d) Providing otherwise unobtainable information and analysis to  
9 the legislature and program managers about issues related to  
10 employment and unemployment.

11 (2) Individuals who are eligible for services under the federal  
12 workforce innovation and opportunity act, P.L. 113-128 or its  
13 successor, must be provided the opportunity to enroll in self-  
14 employment assistance or entrepreneurial training programs to prepare  
15 them for self-employment on the same basis as they are provided the  
16 opportunity to enroll in other training programs funded under the  
17 federal workforce innovation and opportunity act. The department must  
18 work with local workforce development councils to ensure that the  
19 contracting process with training providers is efficient and that the  
20 number of entrepreneurial training providers on the state's eligible  
21 training provider list is sufficient to meet demand. Each local  
22 workforce development council must:

23 (a) Notify all individuals eligible for services under the  
24 workforce innovation and opportunity act of the availability of self-  
25 employment assistance and entrepreneurial training; and

26 (b) Establish and implement a plan for expending workforce  
27 innovation and opportunity act funds on self-employment assistance  
28 and entrepreneurial training at a rate that is commensurate with  
29 either the demand for such services or the rate of self-employment  
30 within the council's workforce development area.

31 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 12.** A new section is added to chapter 43.330  
32 RCW to read as follows:

33 (1) The legislature recognizes that the departments of veterans  
34 affairs, social and health services, health, and commerce, the  
35 employment security department, the Washington student achievement  
36 council, the state board for community and technical colleges, the  
37 health care authority, the office of financial management, and the  
38 United States department of defense, in addition to other agencies,  
39 each have comprehensive data that can contribute greatly to

1 understanding the demographics of military spouses, as defined in RCW  
2 50.62.020, and military families in the state.

3 (2) For the purposes of improving the state's ability to support  
4 military families, the department shall convene a work group of  
5 representatives from the agencies listed in subsection (1) of this  
6 section and any other agency or entity the department finds  
7 appropriate to develop recommendations on best practices for  
8 collecting demographic data on military families receiving services,  
9 support, assistance, and benefits from the state agencies.

10 (3) The department must convene the work group and issue a report  
11 of findings and recommendations to the joint committee of veterans'  
12 and military affairs by December 31, 2019.

13 (4) The work group must, at a minimum:

14 (a) Determine what data on military families is already being  
15 collected by each agency;

16 (b) Establish best practices for agencies to share demographic  
17 data on military families in order to better serve and support  
18 military families; and

19 (c) Recommend methods to encourage military families to self-  
20 identify for the purposes of collecting demographic data.

21 (5)(a) If the work group's recommendations can be implemented by  
22 the agencies without legislative action, the agencies shall implement  
23 the recommendations within one year of the work group's report.

24 (b) If legislative action is required to implement the work  
25 group's recommendations, the department shall request legislation in  
26 the legislative session following the issuance of the work group's  
27 report.

28 (6) In coordination with the work group, the office of financial  
29 management shall develop and issue a report on military spouses  
30 residing in Washington state to the joint committee on veterans' and  
31 military affairs by December 31, 2019. The report must include, at a  
32 minimum: The actual or estimated number of spouses currently married  
33 to active duty service members; spouses currently married to active  
34 duty service members who have moved to Washington state over the past  
35 year; spouses currently married to separated service members; and  
36 spouses previously married to active duty service members.

37 (7) In coordination with the work group, the employment security  
38 department shall develop and issue a report on working-age military  
39 spouses residing in Washington state to the joint committee on  
40 veterans' and military affairs by December 31, 2019. The report must

1 include, at a minimum: The actual or estimated labor force  
2 participation rate; the unemployment rate; and average wages.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 13.** A new section is added to chapter 39.19  
4 RCW to read as follows:

5 (1) By January 1, 2020, the office shall design and implement a  
6 two-year pilot program to conduct outreach to military spouses who  
7 are women and minority business owners, for the purposes of providing  
8 support and technical assistance to those business owners.

9 (2) In designing and implementing the pilot program, the office  
10 shall, at a minimum:

11 (a) Focus on one military installation community; and

12 (b) Partner with the department of commerce, the department of  
13 veterans affairs, the United States small business administration,  
14 nonprofit organizations, and any other organizations that provide  
15 small business support, such as advising, planning, networking, and  
16 alternative financing.

17 (3) By December 31, 2021, the office shall provide a report to  
18 the joint committee on veterans' and military affairs on the office's  
19 outreach efforts, the number of business owners who participated in  
20 the pilot program, and the status of the businesses that were part of  
21 the pilot program.

22 (4) For the purposes of this section, "military spouse" means any  
23 person currently or previously married to a military service member  
24 during the military service member's time of active duty. Active duty  
25 may have been in any branch of the armed forces of the United States,  
26 including the national guard, coast guard, and armed forces reserves.

27 (5) This section expires December 31, 2023.

--- END ---