
SENATE BILL 6310

State of Washington

66th Legislature

2020 Regular Session

By Senators Keiser, Conway, Wellman, Saldaña, Stanford, Nguyen, and Wilson, C.

Read first time 01/15/20. Referred to Committee on Human Services, Reentry & Rehabilitation.

1 AN ACT Relating to a report of employers with employees receiving
2 certain public assistance programs; adding a new section to chapter
3 49.46 RCW; and creating new sections.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that public benefit
6 programs are essential to provide Washingtonians with access to fresh
7 healthy food, quality health coverage, basic needs, cash assistance,
8 child care, and income supports, among other benefits. When low wages
9 and a lack of benefits leave workers unable to make ends meet, they
10 turn to public assistance programs for health care, food, and other
11 basic necessities. Employers that pay low wages and offer
12 insufficient benefits shift the costs of doing business onto
13 taxpayers. For example, more than sixty percent of enrollees in
14 medicaid and community health improvement plans nationwide belong to
15 working families, meaning that the taxpayers bear a significant
16 portion of the hidden costs of low-wage work. Such employers put
17 responsible employers at a competitive disadvantage, creating an
18 unfair playing field for business in Washington state.

19 To promote a deeper understanding of the causes and sources of
20 underemployment, poverty wages, and the economic impacts on our
21 society, business, and the state budget, the legislature needs to

1 possess a broader set of empirical data with which to make informed
2 decisions to protect workers and strengthen the economy.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 49.46
4 RCW to read as follows:

5 In its annual briefing book, the department of social and health
6 services economic services administration must include a report on
7 the fifty employers with the highest number of employees who receive
8 public assistance in each of the following programs:

9 (1) The basic food program;

10 (2) The WorkFirst temporary assistance for needy families
11 program; and

12 (3) The working connections child care program.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** This act may be known and cited as the
14 fair share employer disclosure act.

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