
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 8427

State of Washington

54th Legislature

1996 Regular Session

By Senators Pelz, Deccio, Heavey, Newhouse, Fraser, Hale, Franklin, Haugen and McAuliffe

Read first time 01/15/96. Referred to Committee on Labor, Commerce & Trade.

1 WHEREAS, The Department of Labor and Industries is responsible for
2 the protection of workers and, when injured, their rehabilitation and
3 reemployment; and

4 WHEREAS, Over forty-five million dollars is spent annually by the
5 Department of Labor and Industries for vocational rehabilitation
6 services; and

7 WHEREAS, Approximately ten thousand workers in the state are
8 actively involved in rehabilitation at any time; and

9 WHEREAS, The 1995 report of the Legislative Task Force on
10 unemployment emphasized the need for a comprehensive and effective
11 state strategy to assist workers in their efforts to reenter the work
12 force; and

13 WHEREAS, It is in the best interest of workers, employers, and the
14 state to improve the skill level of workers and maximize the use of the
15 state's training system;

16 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, By the Senate of the State of
17 Washington, the House of Representatives concurring, That a Joint Task
18 Force on Vocational Rehabilitation and Training be hereby created. The
19 task force shall undertake a comprehensive review of the vocational
20 rehabilitation, employment, and training programs within the Department
21 of Labor and Industries, examine the potential for better integration

1 of the programs into the state's work force development efforts, and
2 develop such findings and recommendations to the legislature as the
3 task force deems appropriate; and

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That:

5 (1) The task force shall have voting members to be appointed as
6 follows:

7 (a) Four members of the Senate, two from each of the major
8 caucuses, to be appointed by the President of the Senate; and

9 (b) Four members of the House of Representatives, two from each of
10 the major caucuses, to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of
11 Representatives;

12 (2) The task force shall have cochair, one to be selected from
13 among the voting members by the majority caucus of the Senate and one
14 to be selected from among the voting members by the majority caucus of
15 the House of Representatives;

16 (3) The task force shall have nonvoting advisory members to be
17 appointed by the cochair as follows:

18 (a) Two representatives of business;

19 (b) Two representatives of labor; and

20 (c) One representative of vocational rehabilitation counselors; and

21 (4) The department of labor and industries shall cooperate with the
22 task force and provide information and assistance as the cochair deem
23 appropriate; and

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the task force shall use legislative
25 staff and facilities, but may hire additional staff with specific
26 technical expertise if such expertise is necessary to carry out the
27 mandates of this resolution. The members of the task force shall be
28 reimbursed for travel expenses as provided in RCW 43.03.050 and
29 43.03.060. All expenses of the task force, including travel, shall be
30 paid jointly by the Senate and the House of Representatives; and

31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the task force shall report any
32 preliminary findings and recommendations it makes to the legislature by
33 January 15, 1997, and shall report any final findings and
34 recommendations it makes to the legislature by December 1, 1997; and

35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the task force shall expire April 1,
36 1998.

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