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**HOUSE BILL 2242**

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**State of Washington 64th Legislature 2015 Regular Session**

**By** Representatives Hudgins, Magendanz, and Stanford

AN ACT Relating to training state information technology employees in common business-oriented language for the purpose of cost savings in maintaining, repairing, and updating state legacy systems and applications; adding a new section to chapter 41.06 RCW; creating a new section; and providing an expiration date.

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

NEW SECTION. **Sec.**  The legislature recognizes that many of the state agency computer systems and application platforms are considered legacy systems because they use antiquated technology, such as common business-oriented language programming, known as COBOL. However, because of the high expense of a new system or the difficulty to change or redesign to a more modern system, many of these legacy systems continue to be used. The legislature finds that experienced COBOL programmers have either retired or are nearing retirement, making it difficult and expensive to find qualified individuals to repair, update, and maintain state agency legacy systems. Therefore, the legislature intends to encourage state employees in the information technology field to receive training in COBOL to help secure and preserve state agency legacy systems while reducing costs.

NEW SECTION. **Sec.**  A new section is added to chapter 41.06 RCW to read as follows:

(1) The department of enterprise services, in collaboration with the office of the chief information officer and The Evergreen State College, shall establish a pilot project to train state agency information technology employees, on a voluntary basis, in common business-oriented language programming, also known as COBOL, with the goal of reducing costs for maintenance and repair of legacy systems. The pilot project shall create a training program to be offered to state information technology employees through the Washington state human resources learning management system. The pilot project shall begin in August 2015 and end in August 2019. A report is due to the legislature annually by December 1st of each year regarding the following:

(a) The number of state employees that participated in the training;

(b) The number of training opportunities provided each year;

(c) The cost of training for each participant;

(d) How the training is being advertised and offered to state employees;

(e) Characteristics of the state employee participants, such as job title, years of state service, and the agency;

(f) The number of times a state employee trained in COBOL is able to effectively use the training to update, repair, or maintain a state legacy system;

(g) Any estimated cost savings; and

(h) Any other information the department of enterprise services deems appropriate.

(2) This section expires December 1, 2019.

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