
SENATE BILL 5955

State of Washington

58th Legislature

2003 Regular Session

By Senator Benton

Read first time 02/24/2003. Referred to Committee on Economic Development.

1 AN ACT Relating to the personal reemployment account program; and
2 adding a new chapter to Title 43 RCW.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that the department of
5 community, trade, and economic development has, through its individual
6 development accounts program, shown the value of economic development
7 efforts that focus on providing individuals with resources, skills, and
8 incentives to engage in gainful employment. It is the intent of the
9 legislature to promote economic development by creating the personal
10 reemployment account program in the department to provide for the
11 establishment of personal reemployment accounts for certain individuals
12 identified as likely to have problems becoming reemployed. The
13 personal reemployment account program is to assist such individuals by
14 accelerating reemployment, promoting retention in employment, and
15 providing enhanced flexibility, choice, and control in obtaining
16 intensive reemployment, training, and supportive services. It is the
17 further intent of the legislature to operate the program with funds
18 granted to the state from the federal government and private resources.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The personal reemployment account program is
2 established in the department of community, trade, and economic
3 development.

4 (1) An eligible individual may receive only one personal
5 reemployment account. The amount of each reemployment account is three
6 thousand dollars.

7 (2) An individual is eligible to receive a personal reemployment
8 account if, after the state receives federal grant funds, the
9 individual:

10 (a) Is identified, pursuant to section 303(j)(1) of the federal
11 social security act: (i) As likely to exhaust regular unemployment
12 compensation; (ii) to be in need of job search assistance to make a
13 successful transition to new employment; (iii) as receiving regular
14 unemployment compensation; and (iv) as eligible for not less than
15 twenty weeks of regular unemployment compensation; or

16 (b) Has exhausted all rights to any unemployment compensation, and:

17 (i) Is enrolled in training and needs additional support to
18 complete this training, with a priority of service to be provided to
19 the individuals who are training for shortage occupations or high-
20 growth industries; or

21 (ii) Is separated from employment in an industry or occupation that
22 has experienced declining employment, or no longer provides any
23 employment, in the local labor market during the two-year period
24 preceding the individual's application for eligibility.

25 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) Prior to the establishment of a personal
26 reemployment account for an eligible individual, the department of
27 community, trade, and economic development shall ensure that the
28 individual:

29 (a) Is informed of the requirements applicable to the personal
30 reemployment account, including the allowable uses of funds provided
31 for in section 4 of this act and the conditions for their receipt, and
32 the availability of and the limitations on access to services provided
33 for by federal law;

34 (b) Has the option to develop a personal reemployment plan which
35 will identify the employment goals and appropriate combination of
36 services selected by the individual to achieve the employment goals;
37 and

1 (c) Signs an attestation that the individual will comply with the
2 requirements relating to the personal reemployment accounts under this
3 chapter and federal law and will reimburse the account or, if the
4 account has been terminated, the program for any amounts expended from
5 the account that are not allowable.

6 (2) The department shall conduct periodic interviews with
7 recipients to assist them in meeting their individual employment goals
8 if, after they exhaust any unemployment compensation due to them, they
9 have remaining balances in their personal reemployment account.

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** (1) Subject to the requirements of federal
11 law, a recipient may use amounts in a personal reemployment account to
12 purchase one or more of the following:

13 (a) Intensive services, including:

14 (i) Comprehensive and specialized assessments of skill level and
15 service needs;

16 (ii) Development of an individual employment plan;

17 (iii) Counseling and career planning;

18 (iv) Case management of training selected by the recipient; and

19 (v) Short-term prevocational services such as communication skills,
20 learning skills, interviewing skills, and personal conduct skills;

21 (b) Training services, including:

22 (i) Occupational skills training and retraining;

23 (ii) On-the-job training;

24 (iii) Programs that combine workplace training with related
25 instruction;

26 (iv) Entrepreneurial training; and

27 (v) Job readiness and literacy training;

28 (c) Supportive services such as transportation, child care,
29 dependent care, housing, and needs-related payments, that are necessary
30 to enable an individual to become reemployed; and

31 (d) Assistance to purchase or lease an automobile, if this
32 assistance is necessary to allow the recipient to accept a bona fide
33 offer of employment for which there is a reasonable expectation of
34 long-term duration.

35 (2) A recipient eligible under section 2(2)(b) of this act may
36 withdraw amounts from the personal reemployment account on a weekly

1 basis for purposes of income support in amounts up to the average
2 weekly amount of unemployment compensation that was received prior to
3 his or her exhaustion of unemployment benefits, provided the recipient
4 is engaged in job search, intensive services, or training that is
5 expected to lead to employment.

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** Consistent with federal law, a recipient may
7 receive a reemployment bonus of the balance of his or her personal
8 reemployment account if he or she obtains full-time employment within
9 thirteen weeks of:

10 (1) Starting unemployment payments for those recipients receiving
11 unemployment benefits at the time their reemployment account was
12 established; or

13 (2) The establishment of the reemployment account for those
14 recipients who had exhausted unemployment benefits at the time their
15 personal reemployment account was established.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** The department of community, trade, and
17 economic development shall, consistent with federal requirements and in
18 cooperation with the work force training and education coordinating
19 board and the employment security department, develop and submit a
20 state plan for operating the personal reemployment account program
21 authorized by this chapter. The department may operate the personal
22 reemployment account program in conjunction with its individual
23 development account program and is authorized to seek private resources
24 to assist in operating both programs.

25 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** Sections 1 through 6 of this act constitute
26 a new chapter in Title 43 RCW.

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