
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2040

State of Washington

64th Legislature

2015 Regular Session

By House Community Development, Housing & Tribal Affairs (originally sponsored by Representatives McCabe, Caldier, Senn, Harris, McBride, Dent, Johnson, Sells, Kagi, Kilduff, and Wilson)

READ FIRST TIME 02/20/15.

1 AN ACT Relating to increasing employment for veterans; adding new
2 sections to chapter 73.16 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that veterans are
5 national heroes who have made great sacrifices in their lives for the
6 protection of our nation. The legislature recognizes that many of
7 these veterans reside in Washington where there are a high number of
8 military installations.

9 Over six hundred thousand veterans reside in Washington. The
10 legislature finds that the unemployment rate among these veterans is
11 of great concern, particularly among young veterans. In 2014, the
12 unemployment rate for veterans between the ages of eighteen and
13 twenty-five was approximately twenty-one percent, despite having such
14 diverse and valued skill sets, including expertise in fields such as
15 health care or technology, and strong discipline and leadership
16 abilities.

17 The legislature recognizes the importance of facilitating and
18 focusing on the hiring of our veterans.

19 For these reasons, the legislature intends to create a statewide
20 campaign to increase veteran employment in Washington by engaging
21 state agencies, local governments, and businesses.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) The department of veterans affairs,
2 employment security department, and department of commerce shall
3 consult local chambers of commerce, associate development
4 organizations, and businesses to initiate a campaign to increase
5 veteran employment.

6 (2) Participants in the campaign are encouraged to work with
7 county veterans' advisory boards as defined in RCW 73.08.035.

8 (3) Funding for the campaign shall be established from existing
9 resources.

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The Washington department of veterans
11 affairs must maintain a database of state agencies, local
12 governments, local chambers of commerce, associate development
13 organizations, and businesses that have chosen to participate in the
14 campaign to hire veterans.

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** The definition in this section applies
16 throughout sections 2 and 3 of this act unless the context clearly
17 requires otherwise.

18 "Veteran" means any veteran discharged under honorable
19 conditions.

20 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** Sections 2 through 4 of this act are each
21 added to chapter 73.16 RCW.

--- END ---