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SECOND SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2040

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State of Washington

64th Legislature

2015 Regular Session

**By** House Appropriations (originally sponsored by Representatives McCabe, Caldier, Senn, Harris, McBride, Dent, Johnson, Sells, Kagi, Kilduff, and Wilson)

READ FIRST TIME 02/27/15.

1 AN ACT Relating to increasing employment for veterans; adding a  
2 new section 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.**    A new section is added to chapter 73.16  
2    RCW to read as follows:

3        (1)    The department of veterans affairs, employment security  
4    department, and department of commerce shall consult local chambers  
5    of commerce, associate development organizations, and businesses to  
6    initiate a demonstration campaign to increase veteran employment.  
7    This campaign may include partnerships with chambers of commerce that  
8    result in business owners sharing, with the local chamber of  
9    commerce, information on the number of veterans employed and the  
10   local chambers of commerce providing this information to the  
11   department of veterans affairs.

12        (2)    Participants in the campaign are encouraged to work with the  
13   Washington state military transition council and county veterans'  
14   advisory boards as defined in RCW 73.08.035.

15        (3)    Funding for the campaign shall be established from existing  
16   resources.

17        (4)    For the purposes of this section, "veteran" means any veteran  
18   discharged under honorable conditions.

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