

**SENATE BILL No. 205**

By Committee on Ways and Means

2-14

1 AN ACT establishing the Kansas employment first initiative act and  
2 creating the Kansas employment first oversight commission.

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4 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:*

5 Section 1. (a) This act shall be known as and cited as the  
6 Kansas employment first initiative act.

7 (b) It is hereby declared to be the policy of the state of Kansas that  
8 competitive and integrated employment shall be considered its first  
9 option when serving persons with disabilities who are of working age to  
10 obtain employment for state employment and for those entities that  
11 contract with state agencies to provide employment for persons with a  
12 disability. This policy applies to programs and services that support the  
13 employment of persons with disabilities. All state agencies shall follow  
14 this policy and ensure that it is effectively implemented in their programs  
15 and services.

16 Sec. 2. (a) All state agencies shall coordinate efforts and shall  
17 collaborate within and among such agencies to ensure that state  
18 programs, policies, procedures and funding support competitive and  
19 integrated employment of individuals with disabilities. All state agencies  
20 shall, whenever feasible, share data and information across systems in  
21 order to track progress toward full implementation of the act.

22 (b) State agencies are authorized to adopt rules and regulations to  
23 implement this act.

24 Sec. 3. (a) There is hereby established a Kansas employment first  
25 oversight commission consisting of five members. The commission shall  
26 consist of the following members who shall serve a for two-year term:

27 (1) Four members who are persons with a disability or who are  
28 knowledgeable of disability issues and who are not state employees, of  
29 whom:

30 (A) One shall be appointed by the speaker of the house of  
31 representatives;

32 (B) one shall be appointed by the minority leader of the house of  
33 representatives;

34 (C) one shall be appointed by the president of the senate; and

35 (D) one shall be appointed by the minority leader of the senate;

36 (2) one member who is experienced with employment service

1 programs and who is not a state employee shall be appointed by the  
2 governor.

3 (b) The governor shall designate one member to convene and  
4 organize the first meeting of the commission at which the commission  
5 shall elect a chairperson and a vice-chairperson from among its members.  
6 The commission shall meet at least four times a year and, additionally,  
7 whenever called by the chairperson. A quorum shall consist of three  
8 members. All actions of the commission shall be taken by a majority of  
9 the members of the commission.

10 (c) Each member of the commission shall be paid mileage and other  
11 expenses as provided by K.S.A. 75-3212, and amendments thereto.

12 (d) The commission shall establish measurable goals and objectives  
13 for the state of Kansas to ensure implementation of this act. The  
14 commission shall track the measurable progress of public agencies in  
15 implementing this act. All state agencies shall fully cooperate with and  
16 provide data and information to assist the commission in carrying out its  
17 duties.

18 (e) The commission shall issue an annual report on or before January  
19 1 each year which shall be presented to the governor and members of the  
20 state legislature. The report shall detail progress toward the goals and  
21 objectives and full implementation of this act. All state agencies shall  
22 cooperate with the commission on the creation and dissemination of the  
23 annual report. The report also shall identify barriers to achieving the  
24 outcomes along with the effective strategies and policies that can help  
25 realize the employment first initiative.

26 (f) The department of social and rehabilitation services shall be the  
27 lead agency responsible for compiling data and coordinating the  
28 preparation of the annual report at the direction of the commission.

29 (g) The provisions of section 3, and amendments thereto, shall expire  
30 on July 1, 2014.

31 Sec. 4. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its  
32 publication in the statute book.

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