
HOUSE BILL 2040

State of Washington 64th Legislature 2015 Regular Session

By Representatives McCabe, Caldier, Senn, Harris, McBride, Dent, Johnson, Sells, Kagi, Kilduff, and Wilson

Read first time 02/09/15. Referred to Committee on Community Development, Housing & Tribal Affairs.

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 sacrifice their lives for the protection of our
6 nation. The legislature recognizes that many of these veterans
7 reside in Washington where there are a high number of military
8 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" has the same meanings as defined in RCW 41.04.005 and
19 41.04.007 and includes a current member of the national guard or
20 armed forces reserves who has been deployed to serve in armed
21 conflict.

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

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