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**SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2040**

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**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)

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.

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