

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Olympia Washington

Bil Analysis

Bil No. HB 2820

Supported Employment/Sever Disabilities
Brief title

Hrg. Date: 2/6/98

Reps. Cooke/Cody _____
Sponsor

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BACKGROUND:

Legislation was enacted in 1987 establishing a disability accommodation fund to help state agencies and institutions of higher education accommodate job site and equipment needs of people with disabilities requiring the Department of Employment Security to give particular and special attention to service people with disabilities, requiring the Department of Employment Security to establish an information clearinghouse to use by private and public sector employers and persons of disability.

Legislation was enacted in 1997 encouraging state agencies to support supported employment activities for individuals with developmental disabilities who may require job training and long term support to fulfill their job duties successfully. Developmental disabilities were defined as disabilities attributable to mental retardation, cerebral palsy, epilepsy, autism, or another neurological or other condition originating a person prior to the age of 18, that continues, and which constitutes a substantial handicap to the individual. Each agency was required to report to the Department of Social and Health Services on its supported employment efforts and make recommendations for expanding the supported employment program to include people with mental disabilities and other disabilities.

SUMMARY:

The persons covered by the supported employment program for state agencies is altered from persons with developmental disabilities to persons with the most severe disabilities.-

Severe disabilities defined by reference to be severe physical or mental impairment that seriously limits a functional capacity, such as mobility, communication, interpersonal skill, work tolerance or work skill.

The term most severe disabilities is not defined.

FISCAL NOTE: Not requested.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill passed.