

---

HOUSE BILL 1941

---

State of Washington

55th Legislature

1997 Regular Session

By Representatives Robertson, Scott, D. Schmidt, Ogden, Cooke, Poulsen, Carrell, Wood, O'Brien, Cooper, Blalock, Costa, Cole, Conway, Gardner, Mason and Tokuda

Read first time 02/14/97. Referred to Committee on Government Administration.

1 AN ACT Relating to supported employment for persons with  
2 developmental disabilities; adding new sections to chapter 41.04 RCW;  
3 and creating a new section.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that the rate of  
6 unemployment among persons with developmental disabilities is high due  
7 to the limited employment opportunities available to disabled persons.  
8 Given that persons with disabilities are capable of filling employment  
9 positions in the general work force population, supported employment is  
10 an effective way of integrating such individuals into the general work  
11 force population. The creation of supported employment programs can  
12 increase the types and availability of employment positions for persons  
13 with developmental disabilities. Supported employment programs are not  
14 intended to displace employees or abrogate any reduction-in-force  
15 rights.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** Unless the context clearly requires  
17 otherwise the definitions in this section apply throughout sections 3  
18 through 5 of this act.

1 (1) "Developmental disability" means a disability as defined in RCW  
2 71A.10.020.

3 (2) "Supported employment" means employment for individuals with  
4 developmental disabilities who may require on-the-job training and  
5 long-term support in order to fulfill their job duties successfully.  
6 Supported employment offers the same wages and benefits as similar  
7 nonsupported employment positions.

8 (3) "State agency" means any office, department, division, bureau,  
9 board, commission, or agency of the state of Washington.

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** Each state agency with at least fifty full-  
11 time equivalent employees shall develop and implement a supported  
12 employment program. The program shall include:

13 (1) Designating a coordinator who will be responsible for  
14 information and resource referral regarding the agency's supported  
15 employment program. The coordinator shall serve as a liaison between  
16 the agency and the department of personnel regarding supported  
17 employment;

18 (2) Establishing goals for hiring of persons with developmental  
19 disabilities;

20 (3) Submitting an annual report to the supported employment  
21 advisory committee. The annual report shall include: A description of  
22 the supported employment program in place, the number of persons placed  
23 in supported employment positions, and an overall evaluation of the  
24 strengths and weaknesses of the agency's supported employment program.

25 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** (1) The department of personnel shall  
26 encourage, educate, and assist state agencies in implementing supported  
27 employment programs. The department of personnel shall provide human  
28 resources technical assistance to agencies implementing supported  
29 employment programs.

30 (2) The supported employment advisory committee is created within  
31 the department of personnel. The committee shall consist of  
32 representatives from the department of personnel, the department of  
33 social and health services, and supported employment provider  
34 associations. The committee shall assist the department of personnel  
35 in meeting its obligations under subsection (1) of this section. The  
36 committee shall review annual reports submitted by each agency with a  
37 supported employment program. The committee shall make available, upon

1 request of the legislature, an annual report that evaluates the overall  
2 progress of supported employment programs in the state.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** The creation of supported employment  
4 positions under sections 3 and 4 of this act shall not count against an  
5 agency's allotted full-time equivalent employee positions.

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** Sections 2 through 5 of this act are each  
7 added to chapter 41.04 RCW.

--- END ---