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**SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5768**

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**State of Washington**

**55th Legislature**

**1997 Regular Session**

**By** Senate Committee on Commerce & Labor (originally sponsored by Senators Horn, Thibaudeau, Winsley, Anderson, Oke, McDonald, Wood, Fairley, Wojahn and Heavey)

Read first time 03/05/97.

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.

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

17 (1) "Developmental disability" means a disability as defined in RCW  
18 71A.10.020.

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

6 (3) "State agency" means any office, department, division, bureau,  
7 board, commission, community college or institution of higher  
8 education, or agency of the state of Washington.

9 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** State agencies are encouraged to participate  
10 in supported employment activities. The department of social and  
11 health services, in conjunction with the department of personnel and  
12 the office of financial management, shall identify agencies that have  
13 positions and funding conducive to implementing supported employment.  
14 These agencies shall:

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

19 (2) Submit an annual update to the department of social and health  
20 services, the department of personnel, and the office of financial  
21 management. The annual update shall include: A description of the  
22 agency's supported employment efforts, the number of persons placed in  
23 supported employment positions, and an overall evaluation of the  
24 effectiveness of supported employment for the agency.

25 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** The department of social and health services  
26 and the department of personnel shall, after consultation with  
27 supported employment provider associations and other interested  
28 parties, encourage, educate, and assist state agencies in implementing  
29 supported employment programs. The department of personnel shall  
30 provide human resources technical assistance to agencies implementing  
31 supported employment programs. The department of personnel shall make  
32 available, upon request of the legislature, an annual report that  
33 evaluates the overall progress of supported employment in state  
34 government.

35 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** The creation of supported employment  
36 positions under sections 3 and 4 of this act shall not count against an

1 agency's allotted full-time equivalent employee positions. Supported  
2 employment programs are not intended to displace employees or abrogate  
3 any reduction-in-force rights.

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

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