
HOUSE BILL 2364

State of Washington

56th Legislature

2000 Regular Session

By Representatives Cody, Carlson, Edmonds, Parlette, Edwards, Kastama, Conway, Schual-Berke, Kagi, Kenney, Tokuda, Murray, Ogden, Ruderman, McDonald, Stensen, Van Luven, Lovick, Voloria, Poulsen, Wood, Kessler, Regala, Reardon, Cooper, Anderson and Santos

Read first time 01/11/2000. Referred to Committee on Health Care.

1 AN ACT Relating to eliminating employment barriers for individuals
2 with disabilities; adding a new section to chapter 74.09 RCW; adding a
3 new section to chapter 74.29 RCW; creating a new section; and providing
4 an effective date.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that individuals with
7 disabilities face many barriers and disincentives to employment.
8 Individuals with disabilities are often unable to obtain health
9 insurance that provides the services and supports necessary to allow
10 them to live independently and enter or rejoin the work force. In some
11 cases, government policies and services create barriers to employment
12 through disqualifying workers with disabilities from needed health care
13 and support services. The legislature finds that there is a compelling
14 public interest in eliminating barriers to work by creating financial
15 incentives to work, by continuing needed health care coverage, and by
16 providing individuals with disabilities real choice in obtaining the
17 services and technology they need to find, enter, and maintain
18 employment.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 74.09 RCW
2 to read as follows:

3 (1) It is the intent of the legislature to remove barriers to
4 employment for individuals with disabilities through the continuation
5 of medical care services in accordance with medical eligibility
6 requirements established by the department.

7 (2) The department shall establish earned income disregards, cost
8 sharing, and a schedule of premiums, consistent with federal law, that
9 eliminate disincentives to employment for individuals with
10 disabilities.

11 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 74.29 RCW
12 to read as follows:

13 (1) It is the intent of the legislature to remove barriers to
14 employment for individuals with disabilities through the provision of
15 employment services, vocational rehabilitation services, or other
16 support services from an employment network of the beneficiary's
17 choice.

18 (2) The department of social and health services shall develop a
19 program to assist individuals with disabilities to seek, gain, and keep
20 employment through the provision of the following services:

21 (a) Utilizing earned income disregards for individuals with
22 disabilities who gain employment; and

23 (b) Providing individuals with disabilities a ticket to obtain
24 vocational rehabilitation services, employment services, and other
25 support services of their choice.

26 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** This act takes effect October 1, 2000.

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