

SENATE BILL REPORT

HB 2393

As Reported by Senate Committee On:
Human Services & Corrections, February 23, 2012

Title: An act relating to federal new hire reporting requirements.

Brief Description: Concerning employer reporting to the state support registry.

Sponsors: Representatives Rodne, Pedersen, Moscoso and Condotta; by request of Department of Social and Health Services.

Brief History: Passed House: 2/09/12, 97-0.

Committee Activity: Human Services & Corrections: 2/17/12, 2/23/12 [DP].

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES & CORRECTIONS

Majority Report: Do pass.

Signed by Senators Hargrove, Chair; Regala, Vice Chair; Stevens, Ranking Minority Member; Carrell, Harper, McAuliffe and Padden.

Staff: Shani Bauer (786-7468)

Background: All employers doing business in Washington State must report to the Washington State Support Registry (Registry) when the business hires or re-hires a person for employment. Employers may report by mailing a copy of the employee's W-4 form or other means authorized by the Registry. Reports must be submitted within 20 days of the hiring or re-hiring of the person. The reports must include the employee's name, address, social security number, and date of birth. The Department of Social and Health Services transmits the information to the National Directory of New Hires for purposes of enforcing child support obligations. The information is also shared with the Employment Security Department for purposes of verifying employment or non-employment information provided by persons receiving unemployment benefits.

An employer who fails to report as required is subject to a civil penalty of \$25 per month, per employee; or \$500 if the failure to report is the result of a conspiracy between the employer and the employee.

In 2010 Congress passed the Claims Resolution Act of 2010 (PL 111-291). The act requires states to enact laws requiring employers to report the date that services were first performed

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by the newly hired or re-hired employee. States must incorporate this new provision into law by October 1, 2012, or face potential penalties to federal funding for the child support program and the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families program.

Summary of Bill: All employers doing business in the state must report to the Registry when the business hires a person for employment and the person:

- has not previously been employed by the employer; or
- was previously employed by the employer but has been separated from employment for at least 60 consecutive days.

The employer must report the date on which the person first performed services for the employer or the date the person returned to work if the person is a re-hire. To the extent practicable, employers must report by submitting a copy of the employee's W-4 form or other equivalent form by first-class mail, electronic transmittal, or other means authorized by the registry.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

Committee/Commission/Task Force Created: No.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

Staff Summary of Public Testimony: PRO: This bill is needed in order to help the Division of Child Support with collection efforts, to help the Employment Security Department with fraud detection and reduce unemployment compensation overpayments, and to comply with recent federal law changes contained in the Claims Resolution Act of 2010. Employers are already required to report new hires. This bill adds a nuance by requiring them to report the date of hire and by clarifying that they are also required to report re-hires.

Persons Testifying: PRO: David Stillman, DSHS, Economic Services Administration.