
SENATE BILL 6405

State of Washington

62nd Legislature

2012 Regular Session

By Senators Hargrove and Frockt

Read first time 01/20/12. Referred to Committee on Economic Development, Trade & Innovation.

1 AN ACT Relating to the Washington service corps; amending RCW
2 50.65.010, 50.65.020, 50.65.030, 50.65.040, 50.65.050, 50.65.060, and
3 50.65.065; adding new sections to chapter 43.17 RCW; adding a new
4 section to chapter 50.65 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that during our
7 nation's great depression public work relief programs, such as the
8 civilian conservation corps, provided employment and training to
9 thousands who had difficulty finding jobs and that the tradition of
10 such programs has continued in Washington with the Washington service
11 corps and the Washington conservation corps. The legislature
12 recognizes this state's responsibility to foster employment
13 opportunities during periods of high unemployment. The legislature
14 declares it to be a policy of this state that a portion of
15 appropriations for capital expenditures be set aside for creating jobs
16 for those persons unemployed in the state.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 43.17 RCW
18 to read as follows:

1 All state agencies including all state departments, boards,
2 councils, commissions, and quasi-public corporations must allocate, as
3 a nondeductible item, out of any moneys appropriated for the original
4 construction of any public building, an amount of one-half of one
5 percent of the appropriation to be expended by the Washington service
6 corps for the creation of jobs for the state's unemployed residents
7 under this chapter. In addition to the cost of job creation projects,
8 the one-half of one percent of the appropriation as provided in this
9 section must be used to provide for the administration of the
10 Washington service corps.

11 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 43.17 RCW
12 to read as follows:

13 (1) The funds allocated under section 2 of this act are subject to
14 interagency reimbursement for expenditure by the Washington service
15 corps when the particular law providing for the appropriation becomes
16 effective. For appropriations which are dependent upon the sale of
17 bonds, the amount or proportionate amount of the moneys under section
18 2 of this act is subject to interagency reimbursement for expenditure
19 by the Washington service corps thirty days after the sale of a bond or
20 bonds.

21 (2) The director of the Washington service corps must determine the
22 amount to be made available for implementation of the job creation
23 projects of the Washington service corps in consultation with the
24 commissioner of the employment security department and payments
25 therefor must be made in accordance with law. The designation of job
26 creation projects and any related administration to implement, operate,
27 and maintain such projects are the responsibility of the director.

28 **Sec. 4.** RCW 50.65.010 and 1987 c 167 s 1 are each amended to read
29 as follows:

30 The legislature finds that:

31 (1) The unemployment rate in the state of Washington is the highest
32 since the great depression, with a significantly higher rate among
33 Washington youth and those needing additional training.

34 (2) The policy of the state is to conserve and protect its natural
35 and urban resources, scenic beauty, and historical and cultural sites.

1 (3) It is in the public interest to target employment projects to
2 those activities which have the greatest benefit to the local economy.

3 (4) There are many unemployed (~~(young adults)~~) citizens without
4 hope or opportunities for entrance into the labor force who are unable
5 to afford higher education and who create a serious strain on tax
6 revenues in community services.

7 (5) The severe cutbacks in community and human services funding
8 leave many local community service agencies without the resources to
9 provide necessary services to those in need.

10 (6) The talent and energy of Washington's unemployed (~~(young~~
11 ~~adults)~~) citizens are an untapped resource which should be challenged
12 to meet the serious shortage in community services and promote and
13 conserve the valuable resources of the state.

14 Therefore, the legislature finds it necessary and in the public
15 interest to enact the Washington (~~(youth)~~) public employment (~~(and~~
16 ~~conservation)~~) act. As part of this chapter, the Washington service
17 corps is established as an operating program of the employment security
18 department. The legislature desires to facilitate the potential of
19 youth and others needing training and employment to obtain available
20 job opportunities in both public and private agencies.

21 **Sec. 5.** RCW 50.65.020 and 1987 c 167 s 2 are each amended to read
22 as follows:

23 Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in
24 this section apply throughout this chapter.

25 (1) "Commissioner" means the commissioner of the employment
26 security department.

27 (2) "Department" means the employment security department.

28 (3) "Enrollees" means those persons who have completed enrollment
29 forms, completed a work agreement, and who have entered into the
30 Washington service corps following the approval of the director of the
31 supervising agency.

32 (4) "Corps" means the Washington service corps.

33 (5) "Work agreement" means the written agreement between the
34 department, the enrollee and the supervising agency under this chapter
35 for a period of up to eighteen months.

36 (6) "Supervising agencies" means those private or public agencies,

1 including cities and counties, which develop and implement full-time
2 service projects in which enrollees agree to participate.

3 (7) "Matching funds" means funding that is provided to the
4 employment security department by agencies or individuals as financial
5 support for a portion of the stipend or wage and benefits paid to the
6 enrollee.

7 (8) "Financial support" means any thing of value contributed by
8 agencies or individuals to the department for (~~(a youth)~~) an employment
9 project (~~(which)~~) that is reasonably calculated to support directly the
10 development and expansion of a particular program under this chapter
11 and which represents an addition to any financial support previously or
12 customarily provided by the individual or agency. "Financial support"
13 includes, but is not limited to funds, equipment, facilities, and
14 training.

15 (9) "Director" means the individual who (~~(shall)~~) serves as the
16 director of the (~~(exchange)~~) Washington service corps.

17 **Sec. 6.** RCW 50.65.030 and 1993 c 302 s 1 are each amended to read
18 as follows:

19 The Washington service corps is established within the employment
20 security department. The commissioner (~~(shall)~~) must:

21 (1) Appoint a director and other personnel as necessary to carry
22 out the purposes of this chapter;

23 (2) Coordinate (~~(youth)~~) employment and training efforts for youth
24 and the unemployed under the department's jurisdiction and cooperate
25 with other agencies or departments providing youth and employment
26 services to ensure that funds appropriated for the purposes of this
27 chapter will not be expended to duplicate existing services, but will
28 increase the (~~(services of youth)~~) opportunities for youth and the
29 unemployed to be of service to the state;

30 (3) The employment security department is authorized to place
31 subgrants with other federal, state, and local governmental agencies
32 and private agencies to provide youth employment projects and to
33 increase (~~(the numbers of youth employed)~~) employment opportunities for
34 youth and the unemployed;

35 (4) Determine appropriate financial support levels by private
36 business, community groups, foundations, public agencies, and

1 individuals which will provide matching funds for enrollees in service
2 projects under work agreements. The matching funds requirement may be
3 waived for public agencies or reduced for private agencies;

4 (5) Recruit enrollees who are residents of the state unemployed at
5 the time of application and are at least eighteen years of age (~~but~~
6 ~~have not reached their twenty-sixth birthday~~);

7 (6) Recruit supervising agencies to host the enrollees in full-time
8 service activities (~~which shall~~) that may not exceed eleven months'
9 duration;

10 (7) Assist supervising agencies in the development of scholarships
11 and matching funds from private and public agencies, individuals, and
12 foundations in order to support a portion of the enrollee's stipend and
13 benefits;

14 (8) Develop general employment guidelines for placement of
15 enrollees in supervising agencies to establish appropriate authority
16 for hiring, firing, grievance procedures, and employment standards
17 which are consistent with state and federal law;

18 (9) Match enrollees with appropriate public agencies and available
19 service projects;

20 (10) Monitor enrollee activities for compliance with this chapter
21 and compliance with work agreements;

22 (11) Assist enrollees in transition to employment upon termination
23 from the programs, including such activities as orientation to the
24 labor market, on-the-job training, and placement in the private sector;

25 (12) Establish a program for providing incentives to encourage
26 successful completion of terms of enrollment in the service corps and
27 the continuation of educational pursuits. Such incentives (~~shall~~)
28 must be in the form of educational assistance equivalent to two years
29 of community or technical college tuition for eleven months of service.
30 Educational assistance funding (~~shall~~) may only be used for tuition,
31 fees, and course-related books and supplies. Enrollees who receive
32 educational assistance funding (~~shall~~) must start using it within one
33 year of their service completion and (~~shall~~) must finish using it
34 within four years of their service completion;

35 (13) Enter into agreements with the state's community and technical
36 college system and other educational institutions or independent
37 nonprofit agencies to provide special education in basic skills,

1 including reading, writing, and mathematics for those participants who
2 may benefit by participation in such classes. Participation is not
3 mandatory but (~~shall be~~) is strongly encouraged.

4 **Sec. 7.** RCW 50.65.040 and 1993 c 302 s 2 are each amended to read
5 as follows:

6 The commissioner may select and enroll in the Washington service
7 corps program any person who is at least eighteen years of age (~~but~~
8 ~~has not reached their twenty-sixth birthday~~), is a resident of the
9 state, and who is not for medical, legal, or psychological reasons
10 incapable of service. Efforts (~~shall~~) must be made to enroll youths
11 and unemployed individuals who are economically, socially, physically,
12 or educationally disadvantaged. The commissioner may prescribe such
13 additional standards and procedures in consultation with supervising
14 agencies as may be necessary in conformance with this chapter. In
15 addition, the commissioner may select and enroll youth fourteen to
16 seventeen years of age on special projects during the summer and at
17 other times during the school year that may complement and support
18 their school curriculum or that link and support service with learning.

19 **Sec. 8.** RCW 50.65.050 and 1987 c 167 s 5 are each amended to read
20 as follows:

21 The commissioner (~~shall~~) must use existing local offices of the
22 employment security department or contract with local jurisdictions or
23 independent, private nonprofit agencies in a local community to
24 establish the Washington service corps program and to insure coverage
25 of the program statewide. Each local office (~~shall~~) must maintain a
26 list of available (~~youth~~) employment opportunities for youth and the
27 unemployed in the jurisdiction covered by the local office and the
28 appropriate forms or work agreements to enable (~~the youths~~) such
29 individuals to apply for employment in private or public supervising
30 agencies.

31 **Sec. 9.** RCW 50.65.060 and 1993 c 302 s 3 are each amended to read
32 as follows:

33 (1) Placements in the Washington service corps (~~shall~~) must be
34 made in supervising agencies under work agreements as provided under
35 this chapter and (~~shall~~) must include those assignments (~~which~~)

1 that provide for addressing community needs (~~and~~) or conservation
2 problems and will assist the community in economic development efforts.
3 Each work agreement (~~shall~~) must:

4 ~~((1))~~ (a) Demonstrate that the service project is appropriate for
5 the enrollee's interests, skills, and abilities and that the project is
6 designed to meet unmet community needs;

7 ~~((2))~~ (b) Include a requirement of regular performance
8 evaluation. This shall include clear work performance standards set by
9 the supervising agency and procedures for identifying strengths,
10 recommended improvement areas and conditions for probation or dismissal
11 of the enrollee; and

12 ~~((3))~~ (c) Include a commitment for partial financial support for
13 the enrollee from private industry, public agencies, community groups,
14 or foundations. The commissioner may establish additional standards
15 for the development of placements for enrollees with supervising
16 agencies and assure that the work agreements comply with those
17 standards. This section (~~shall~~) does not apply to conservation corps
18 programs established by chapter 43.220 RCW.

19 (2) Agencies of the state may use the Washington service corps for
20 the purpose of employing youth and the unemployed qualifying under this
21 chapter.

22 **Sec. 10.** RCW 50.65.065 and 1993 c 302 s 4 are each amended to read
23 as follows:

24 For each enrollee, the work agreements, or combination of work
25 agreements, developed under RCW 50.65.060 (~~shall~~) must, whenever
26 practical, and as appropriate to the enrollee:

- 27 (1) Include a variety of experiences consisting of: Indoor
28 activities; outdoor activities; and volunteer activities;
- 29 (2) Provide time for participation in a core training program
30 common to all participants.

31 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 11.** A new section is added to chapter 50.65 RCW
32 to read as follows:

33 (1) The director must develop a formula for distribution of funds
34 allocated under section 2 of this act. The formula must distribute
35 funds in each county of the state on a per capita basis, prioritizing
36 distribution to counties as follows:

1 (a) First priority is given to those rural counties with
2 unemployment rates more than twenty percent above the state average;
3 (b) Second priority is given to those rural counties with
4 unemployment rates between five percent and twenty percent above the
5 state average;
6 (c) Third priority is given to all other rural counties;
7 (d) Fourth priority is given to nonrural counties with unemployment
8 rates more than twenty percent above the state average; and
9 (e) Fifth priority is given to all other nonrural counties.
10 (2) For the purposes of this section, a rural county has the same
11 meaning as provided in RCW 82.14.370.

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