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HOUSE BILL 2450

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State of Washington

63rd Legislature

2014 Regular Session

By Representatives Haigh, MacEwen, Hunt, Santos, and Freeman

Read first time 01/17/14. Referred to Committee on Early Learning & Human Services.

1 AN ACT Relating to enhancing the employment of persons with  
2 disabilities; adding new sections to chapter 43.41 RCW; and creating a  
3 new section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** This act may be known and cited as the state  
6 employment disability parity act.

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 43.41 RCW  
8 to read as follows:

9 The legislature finds that seven percent of the state's population  
10 consists of persons with disabilities, that persons with disabilities  
11 suffer significantly higher rates of unemployment and underemployment  
12 than in the general population, and that representation of disabled  
13 persons in the state workforce has declined in recent years. The  
14 legislature further finds that there is no policy similar to Schedule  
15 A in the federal civil service system for priority hiring of persons  
16 with disabilities. The legislature further finds that state government  
17 human resource managers do not coordinate with the department of social  
18 and health services' division of vocational rehabilitation regarding

1 opportunities to employ persons with disabilities. Therefore, the  
2 legislature intends to increase the hiring of persons with disabilities  
3 in the state workforce.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 43.41 RCW  
5 to read as follows:

6 (1) By January 31st of each year, state agencies employing thirty  
7 or more people must submit a report to the human resources director,  
8 with copies to the director of the department of social and health  
9 services' division of vocational rehabilitation and the governor's  
10 committee on disabilities and employment.

11 (2) The report must include the following information:

12 (a) The number of employees from the previous calendar year;

13 (b) The number of employees classified as individuals with  
14 disabilities;

15 (c) The number of employees that separated from the state agency  
16 the previous year;

17 (d) The number of employees that were hired by the state agency the  
18 previous year;

19 (e) The number of employees hired from a division of vocational  
20 rehabilitation program the previous year;

21 (f) Planned hires for the current year; and

22 (g) Opportunities for internships for a division of vocational  
23 rehabilitation client placement leading to an entry-level position  
24 placement upon successful completion for the current year.

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