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SENATE BILL 6329

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State of Washington

63rd Legislature

2014 Regular Session

By Senator Sheldon

Read first time 01/21/14. Referred to Committee on Health Care .

1 AN ACT Relating to establishing the state of Washington committing  
2 to employ people with disabilities at the same percentage as in the  
3 general population; and adding a new chapter to Title 71A RCW.

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.** The legislature finds that:

8 (1) People with disabilities occur at seven percent of the state  
9 population;

10 (2) People with disabilities suffer significantly higher rates of  
11 unemployment and underemployment than the general population;

12 (3) State government has no means of developing or priority hiring  
13 for people with disabilities comparable to schedule A in the federal  
14 civil service system;

15 (4) State government human resource managers do not coordinate with  
16 the department of social and health services division of vocational  
17 rehabilitation in matters of disability employment opportunities; and

1 (5) Representation of people with disabilities in the state  
2 workforce has been declining in recent years.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) By January 31st of each year, every  
4 state agency employing thirty people or more shall submit a report to  
5 the department of personnel. Copies must be sent to the director of  
6 the division of vocational rehabilitation and the governor's committee  
7 on disability issues and employment.

8 (2) The report must contain the following elements:

9 (a) Number of employees as of January 1st and December 31st of that  
10 year;

11 (b) Number of employees who would be classified priority 1 disabled  
12 by the division of vocational rehabilitation as of January 1st and  
13 December 31st of that year;

14 (c) Number of employees that separated from the state agency;

15 (d) Number of employees that were hired by the state agency;

16 (e) Number of employees that were hired from a division of  
17 vocational rehabilitation program;

18 (f) Planned hires for the coming year;

19 (g) Opportunities to design an entry-level position for a division  
20 of vocational rehabilitation client placement;

21 (h) Opportunities for nonpaid or paid internships for a division of  
22 vocational rehabilitation client placement leading to an entry-level  
23 position placement upon successful completion.

24 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** (1) By January 31st of each year the  
25 division of vocational rehabilitation shall submit a report to the  
26 department of personnel. A copy must be sent to the governor's  
27 committee on disabilities issues and employment.

28 (2) This report must contain the following elements:

29 (a) Number of clients that obtained jobs in the private sector;

30 (b) Number of clients that obtained jobs in state government;

31 (c) Number of clients that obtained jobs for each major state  
32 agency; and

33 (d) Local government job placements.

34 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** (1) New hires by all state agencies must

1 equal five percent of all placements by the division of vocational  
2 rehabilitation.

3 (2) Agencies that show no good faith efforts to hire division of  
4 vocational rehabilitation clients must have their budgets cut by five  
5 percent the following year.

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** Sections 1 through 5 of this act constitute  
7 a new chapter in Title 71A RCW.

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