

---

HOUSE BILL 2456

---

State of Washington

65th Legislature

2018 Regular Session

By Representatives Kilduff, McCabe, Orwall, Reeves, Kraft, Senn, Gregerson, Muri, Riccelli, Stanford, Tharinger, and Young

Read first time 01/09/18. Referred to Committee on Community Development, Housing & Tribal Affairs.

1 AN ACT Relating to increasing employment opportunities for  
2 spouses of military members; adding a new section to chapter 18.340  
3 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 50.20 RCW; and providing an  
4 expiration date.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 18.340  
7 RCW to read as follows:

8 (1) The department of commerce, employment security department,  
9 and department of labor and industries, shall consult local chambers  
10 of commerce, associate development organizations, and businesses to  
11 initiate a demonstration campaign to increase employment for spouses  
12 of military members on active duty. This campaign may include  
13 partnerships with chambers of commerce that result in business owners  
14 sharing, with the local chamber of commerce, information on the  
15 number of spouses of military members on active duty employed and the  
16 local chambers of commerce providing this information to the  
17 department of commerce.

18 (2) Funding for the campaign must be established from existing  
19 resources.

1 (3) For the purposes of this section, "military member on active  
2 duty" means a person who is serving on full-time active military duty  
3 in the armed forces of the United States.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 50.20  
5 RCW to read as follows:

6 (1) The legislature finds that spouses of military members make  
7 great sacrifices in supporting the mission and service of their  
8 husbands and wives, including leaving jobs and careers to accompany  
9 their spouses on overseas deployment. Such sacrifices become harder  
10 when resources are not available to help these spouses transition to  
11 other job and career opportunities while living abroad.

12 The legislature further finds that advances in technology and the  
13 economy have created more job prospects for military spouses on  
14 deployment and that the regulations for unemployment insurance  
15 eligibility requirements should reflect these changing conditions.

16 (2) The legislature therefore directs the commissioner to conduct  
17 a study of the unemployment insurance program to determine what  
18 barriers to eligibility military spouses face while on deployment  
19 overseas, and to confer with the United States department of labor on  
20 what regulatory and other actions can be taken to provide greater  
21 opportunities for such persons to participate in the unemployment  
22 insurance program. The commissioner should confer with other relevant  
23 state and federal agencies that can provide relevant information on  
24 the labor market and job resources for spouses living on overseas  
25 military bases. The study should account for changing job markets and  
26 the increased opportunities to work remotely, as well as an  
27 assessment of resources available on foreign military bases that can  
28 assist persons seeking employment opportunities on base and remotely.

29 (3) By December 1, 2019, the commissioner must submit a report to  
30 the governor, the joint committee on veterans' and military affairs,  
31 and appropriate standing committees of the legislature, on the study  
32 and implementation of plans to increase opportunities for military  
33 spouses to participate in the unemployment insurance program. The  
34 report should include consideration of how such regulations are  
35 compatible with federal standards and whether any legislation may be  
36 required to effectively implement the plan. The study and report must  
37 be conducted within existing resources.

1 (4) This section expires June 30, 2019.

--- END ---