HOUSE BILL 1812

State of Washington 66th Legislature 2019 Regular Session

By Representatives Reeves, Leavitt, Kilduff, Appleton, Lovick, and Stanford

Read first time 01/31/19. Referred to Committee on Housing, Community Development & Veterans.

- AN ACT Relating to the military spouse equal economic opportunity act; amending RCW 49.60.010, 49.60.020, 49.60.040, 49.60.180, 49.60.190, 49.60.200, 18.340.020, 19.02.020, 19.02.070, 19.02.075, 43.24.086, 43.70.110, 43.70.250, 73.16.010, 73.16.110, 49.74.005, 41.06.530, 73.16.120, 82.04.4498, 50.62.020, and 50.62.030; adding a new section to chapter 43.330 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 39.19 RCW; creating a new section; and providing an expiration date.
- 8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:
- 9 <u>NEW SECTION.</u> **Sec. 1.** This act may be known and cited as the 10 military spouse equal economic opportunity act.
- 11 **Sec. 2.** RCW 49.60.010 and 2007 c 187 s 1 are each amended to 12 read as follows:
- 13 This chapter shall be known as the "law against discrimination." It is an exercise of the police power of the state for the protection 14 15 of the public welfare, health, and peace of the people of this state, and in fulfillment of the provisions of the Constitution of this 16 17 state concerning civil rights. The legislature hereby finds and 18 declares that practices of discrimination against 19 inhabitants because of race, creed, color, national origin, families 20 with children, sex, marital status, military spouse status, sexual

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1 orientation, age, honorably discharged veteran or military status, or the presence of any sensory, mental, or physical disability or the 2 3 use of a trained dog guide or service animal by a person with a disability are a matter of state concern, that such discrimination 4 threatens not only the rights and proper privileges of its 5 6 inhabitants but menaces the institutions and foundation of a free 7 democratic state. A state agency is herein created with powers with respect to elimination and prevention of discrimination 8 employment, in credit and insurance transactions, in places of public 9 resort, accommodation, or amusement, in real 10 and transactions because of race, creed, color, national origin, families 11 12 with children, sex, marital status, military spouse status, sexual orientation, age, honorably discharged veteran or military status, or 13 14 the presence of any sensory, mental, or physical disability or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal by a person with a 15 16 disability; and the commission established hereunder is hereby given 17 general jurisdiction and power for such purposes.

18 **Sec. 3.** RCW 49.60.020 and 2007 c 187 s 2 are each amended to 19 read as follows:

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The provisions of this chapter shall be construed liberally for the accomplishment of the purposes thereof. Nothing contained in this chapter shall be deemed to repeal any of the provisions of any other law of this state relating to discrimination because of race, color, creed, national origin, sex, marital status, military spouse status, sexual orientation, age, honorably discharged veteran or military status, or the presence of any sensory, mental, or physical disability, other than a law which purports to require or permit doing any act which is an unfair practice under this chapter. Nor shall anything herein contained be construed to deny the right to any person to institute any action or pursue any civil or criminal remedy based upon an alleged violation of his or her civil rights. This chapter shall not be construed to endorse any specific belief, practice, behavior, or orientation. Inclusion of sexual orientation in this chapter shall not be construed to modify or supersede state law relating to marriage.

36 **Sec. 4.** RCW 49.60.040 and 2018 c 176 s 2 are each amended to read as follows:

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The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

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- (1) "Aggrieved person" means any person who: (a) Claims to have been injured by an unfair practice in a real estate transaction; or (b) believes that he or she will be injured by an unfair practice in a real estate transaction that is about to occur.
- (2) "Any place of public resort, accommodation, assemblage, or 7 amusement" includes, but is not limited to, any place, licensed or 8 unlicensed, kept for gain, hire, or reward, or where charges are made 9 for admission, service, occupancy, or use of any property 10 11 facilities, whether conducted for the entertainment, housing, 12 lodging of transient guests, or for the benefit, use, accommodation of those seeking health, recreation, or rest, or for 13 the burial or other disposition of human remains, or for the sale of 14 goods, merchandise, services, or personal property, or for the 15 16 rendering of personal services, or for public conveyance 17 transportation on land, water, or in the air, including the stations and terminals thereof and the garaging of vehicles, or where food or 18 beverages of any kind are sold for consumption on the premises, or 19 where public amusement, entertainment, sports, or recreation of any 20 21 kind is offered with or without charge, or where medical service or 22 care is made available, or where the public gathers, congregates, or assembles for amusement, recreation, or public purposes, or public 23 halls, public elevators, and public washrooms of buildings and 24 25 structures occupied by two or more tenants, or by the owner and one 26 or more tenants, or any public library or educational institution, or schools of special instruction, or nursery schools, or day care 27 28 centers or children's camps: PROVIDED, That nothing contained in this 29 definition shall be construed to include or apply to any institute, bona fide club, or place of accommodation, which is by its nature 30 31 distinctly private, including fraternal organizations, though where 32 public use is permitted that use shall be covered by this chapter; nor shall anything contained in this definition apply to any 33 educational facility, columbarium, crematory, mausoleum, or cemetery 34 operated or maintained by a bona fide religious or sectarian 35 36 institution.
- 37 (3) "Commission" means the Washington state human rights 38 commission.
- 39 (4) "Complainant" means the person who files a complaint in a 40 real estate transaction.

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- (5) "Covered multifamily dwelling" means: (a) Buildings consisting of four or more dwelling units if such buildings have one or more elevators; and (b) ground floor dwelling units in other buildings consisting of four or more dwelling units.
- (6) "Credit transaction" includes any open or closed end credit 5 6 transaction, whether in the nature of a loan, retail installment transaction, credit card issue or charge, or otherwise, and whether 7 for personal or for business purposes, in which a service, finance, 8 or interest charge is imposed, or which provides for repayment in 9 scheduled payments, when such credit is extended in the regular 10 course of any trade or commerce, including but not limited to 11 12 transactions by banks, savings and loan associations or other financial lending institutions of whatever nature, stock brokers, or 13 by a merchant or mercantile establishment which as part of its 14 ordinary business permits or provides that payment for purchases of 15 16 property or service therefrom may be deferred.
- 17 (7)(a) "Disability" means the presence of a sensory, mental, or 18 physical impairment that:
 - (i) Is medically cognizable or diagnosable; or
 - (ii) Exists as a record or history; or

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- (iii) Is perceived to exist whether or not it exists in fact.
- (b) A disability exists whether it is temporary or permanent, common or uncommon, mitigated or unmitigated, or whether or not it limits the ability to work generally or work at a particular job or whether or not it limits any other activity within the scope of this chapter.
- 27 (c) For purposes of this definition, "impairment" includes, but 28 is not limited to:
 - (i) Any physiological disorder, or condition, cosmetic disfigurement, or anatomical loss affecting one or more of the following body systems: Neurological, musculoskeletal, special sense organs, respiratory, including speech organs, cardiovascular, reproductive, digestive, genitor-urinary, hemic and lymphatic, skin, and endocrine; or
- 35 (ii) Any mental, developmental, traumatic, or psychological 36 disorder, including but not limited to cognitive limitation, organic 37 brain syndrome, emotional or mental illness, and specific learning 38 disabilities.

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(d) Only for the purposes of qualifying for reasonable accommodation in employment, an impairment must be known or shown through an interactive process to exist in fact and:

- (i) The impairment must have a substantially limiting effect upon the individual's ability to perform his or her job, the individual's ability to apply or be considered for a job, or the individual's access to equal benefits, privileges, or terms or conditions of employment; or
- (ii) The employee must have put the employer on notice of the existence of an impairment, and medical documentation must establish a reasonable likelihood that engaging in job functions without an accommodation would aggravate the impairment to the extent that it would create a substantially limiting effect.
- (e) For purposes of (d) of this subsection, a limitation is not substantial if it has only a trivial effect.
- (8) "Dog guide" means a dog that is trained for the purpose of guiding blind persons or a dog that is trained for the purpose of assisting hearing impaired persons.
- (9) "Dwelling" means any building, structure, or portion thereof that is occupied as, or designed or intended for occupancy as, a residence by one or more families, and any vacant land that is offered for sale or lease for the construction or location thereon of any such building, structure, or portion thereof.
- (10) "Employee" does not include any individual employed by his or her parents, spouse, or child, or in the domestic service of any person.
- (11) "Employer" includes any person acting in the interest of an employer, directly or indirectly, who employs eight or more persons, and does not include any religious or sectarian organization not organized for private profit.
- (12) "Employment agency" includes any person undertaking with or without compensation to recruit, procure, refer, or place employees for an employer.
- (13) "Families with children status" means one or more individuals who have not attained the age of eighteen years being domiciled with a parent or another person having legal custody of such individual or individuals, or with the designee of such parent or other person having such legal custody, with the written permission of such parent or other person. Families with children status also applies to any person who is pregnant or is in the

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process of securing legal custody of any individual who has not attained the age of eighteen years.

- (14) "Full enjoyment of" includes the right to purchase any service, commodity, or article of personal property offered or sold on, or by, any establishment to the public, and the admission of any person to accommodations, advantages, facilities, or privileges of any place of public resort, accommodation, assemblage, or amusement, without acts directly or indirectly causing persons of any particular race, creed, color, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, or with any sensory, mental, or physical disability, or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal by a person with a disability, to be treated as not welcome, accepted, desired, or solicited.
- 13 (15) "Honorably discharged veteran or military status" means a 14 person who is:
 - (a) A veteran, as defined in RCW 41.04.007; or

- (b) An active or reserve member in any branch of the armed forces of the United States, including the national guard, coast guard, and armed forces reserves.
- (16) "Labor organization" includes any organization which exists for the purpose, in whole or in part, of dealing with employers concerning grievances or terms or conditions of employment, or for other mutual aid or protection in connection with employment.
- 23 (17) "Marital status" means the legal status of being married, 24 single, separated, divorced, or widowed.
 - (18) "Military spouse status" means any person currently or previously married to a military service member during the military service member's time of active duty. Active duty may have been in any branch of the armed forces of the United States, including the national guard, coast guard, and armed forces reserves.
 - (19) "National origin" includes "ancestry."
 - (((19))) (20) "Person" includes one or more individuals, partnerships, associations, organizations, corporations, cooperatives, legal representatives, trustees and receivers, or any group of persons; it includes any owner, lessee, proprietor, manager, agent, or employee, whether one or more natural persons; and further includes any political or civil subdivisions of the state and any agency or instrumentality of the state or of any political or civil subdivision thereof.

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(((20))) (21) "Premises" means the interior or exterior spaces, parts, components, or elements of a building, including individual dwelling units and the public and common use areas of a building.

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 $((\frac{(21)}{(21)}))$ <u>(22)</u> "Real estate transaction" includes the sale, appraisal, brokering, exchange, purchase, rental, or lease of real property, transacting or applying for a real estate loan, or the provision of brokerage services.

 $((\frac{(22)}{(23)}))$ "Real property" includes buildings, structures, dwellings, real estate, lands, tenements, leaseholds, interests in real estate cooperatives, condominiums, and hereditaments, corporeal and incorporeal, or any interest therein.

 $((\frac{(23)}{(24)}))$ "Respondent" means any person accused in a complaint or amended complaint of an unfair practice in a real estate transaction.

 $((\frac{24}{2}))$ (25) "Service animal" means any dog or miniature horse, as discussed in RCW 49.60.214, that is individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability, including a physical, sensory, psychiatric, intellectual, or other mental disability. The work or tasks performed by the service animal must be directly related to the individual's disability. Examples of work or tasks include, but are not limited to, assisting individuals who are blind or have low vision with navigation and other tasks, alerting individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing to the presence of people or sounds, providing nonviolent protection or rescue work, pulling a wheelchair, assisting an individual during a seizure, alerting individuals to the presence of allergens, retrieving items such as medicine or the telephone, providing physical support and assistance with balance and stability to individuals with mobility disabilities, and helping persons with psychiatric and neurological disabilities by preventing or interrupting impulsive or destructive behaviors. The crime deterrent effects of an animal's presence and the provision of emotional support, well-being, comfort, or companionship do not constitute work or tasks. This subsection does not apply to RCW 49.60.222 through 49.60.227 with respect to housing accommodations or real estate transactions.

 $((\frac{(25)}{(25)}))$ <u>(26)</u> "Sex" means gender.

 $((\frac{(26)}{(26)}))$ "Sexual orientation" means heterosexuality, homosexuality, bisexuality, and gender expression or identity. As used in this definition, "gender expression or identity" means having

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- 1 or being perceived as having a gender identity, self-image,
- 2 appearance, behavior, or expression, whether or not that gender
- 3 identity, self-image, appearance, behavior, or expression is
- 4 different from that traditionally associated with the sex assigned to
- 5 that person at birth.

Sec. 5. RCW 49.60.180 and 2007 c 187 s 9 are each amended to read as follows:

8 It is an unfair practice for any employer:

- (1) To refuse to hire any person because of age, sex, marital status, military spouse status, sexual orientation, race, creed, color, national origin, honorably discharged veteran or military status, or the presence of any sensory, mental, or physical disability or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal by a person with a disability, unless based upon a bona fide occupational qualification: PROVIDED, That the prohibition against discrimination because of such disability shall not apply if the particular disability prevents the proper performance of the particular worker involved: PROVIDED, That this section shall not be construed to require an employer to establish employment goals or quotas based on sexual orientation.
 - (2) To discharge or bar any person from employment because of age, sex, marital status, <u>military spouse status</u>, sexual orientation, race, creed, color, national origin, honorably discharged veteran or military status, or the presence of any sensory, mental, or physical disability or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal by a person with a disability.
 - (3) To discriminate against any person in compensation or in other terms or conditions of employment because of age, sex, marital status, military spouse status, sexual orientation, race, creed, color, national origin, honorably discharged veteran or military status, or the presence of any sensory, mental, or physical disability or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal by a person with a disability: PROVIDED, That it shall not be an unfair practice for an employer to segregate washrooms or locker facilities on the basis of sex, or to base other terms and conditions of employment on the sex of employees where the commission by regulation or ruling in a particular instance has found the employment practice to be appropriate for the practical realization of equality of opportunity between the sexes.

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- 1 (4) To print, or circulate, or cause to be printed or circulated any statement, advertisement, or publication, or to use any form of 2 application for employment, or to make any inquiry in connection with 3 employment, 4 prospective which expresses any limitation. specification, or discrimination as to age, sex, marital status, 5 6 military spouse status, sexual orientation, race, creed, color, national origin, honorably discharged veteran or military status, or 7 the presence of any sensory, mental, or physical disability or the 8 use of a trained dog guide or service animal by a person with a 9 disability, or any intent to make any such limitation, specification, 10 11 or discrimination, unless based upon a bona fide occupational 12 qualification: PROVIDED, Nothing contained herein shall prohibit advertising in a foreign language. 13
- 14 **Sec. 6.** RCW 49.60.190 and 2007 c 187 s 10 are each amended to 15 read as follows:
- 16 It is an unfair practice for any labor union or labor 17 organization:

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- (1) To deny membership and full membership rights and privileges to any person because of age, sex, marital status, military spouse status, sexual orientation, race, creed, color, national origin, honorably discharged veteran or military status, or the presence of any sensory, mental, or physical disability or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal by a person with a disability.
- (2) To expel from membership any person because of age, sex, marital status, military spouse status, sexual orientation, race, creed, color, national origin, honorably discharged veteran or military status, or the presence of any sensory, mental, or physical disability or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal by a person with a disability.
- (3) To discriminate against any member, employer, employee, or other person to whom a duty of representation is owed because of age, sex, marital status, military spouse status, sexual orientation, race, creed, color, national origin, honorably discharged veteran or military status, or the presence of any sensory, mental, or physical disability or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal by a person with a disability.
- 37 **Sec. 7.** RCW 49.60.200 and 2007 c 187 s 11 are each amended to 38 read as follows:

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1 It is an unfair practice for any employment agency to fail or refuse to classify properly or refer for employment, or otherwise to 2 discriminate against, an individual because of age, sex, marital 3 status, military spouse status, sexual orientation, race, creed, 4 color, national origin, honorably discharged veteran or military 5 6 status, or the presence of any sensory, mental, or physical disability or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal by a 7 person with a disability, or to print or circulate, or cause to be 8 printed or circulated any statement, advertisement, or publication, 9 or to use any form of application for employment, or to make any 10 11 inquiry in connection with prospective employment, which expresses 12 any limitation, specification or discrimination as to age, sex, race, sexual orientation, creed, color, or national origin, honorably 13 discharged veteran or military status, or the presence of any 14 sensory, mental, or physical disability or the use of a trained dog 15 16 guide or service animal by a person with a disability, or any intent 17 to make any such limitation, specification, or discrimination, unless based upon a bona fide occupational qualification: PROVIDED, Nothing 18 19 contained herein shall prohibit advertising in a foreign language.

- 20 **Sec. 8.** RCW 18.340.020 and 2011 2nd sp.s. c 5 s 2 are each 21 amended to read as follows:
 - (1) ((For the purposes of this section, "authority" means any board, commission, or other authority for issuance of a license, certificate, registration, or permit under this title.
 - (2) To the extent resources are available:

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- (a))) Each authority shall establish procedures to expedite the issuance of ((a)) standard and provisional licenses, certificates, registrations, or permits to perform professional services regulated by each such authority to ((a person:
- (i) Who is certified or licensed, certified, or registered, or

 has a permit in another state to perform professional services in

 that state;
- 33 (ii) Whose spouse is the subject of a military transfer to 34 Washington; and
- 35 (iii) Who left employment in the other state to accompany the person's spouse to Washington.
- 37 (b) The procedure must include a process for issuing the person a 38 license, certificate, registration, or permit, if, in the opinion of 39 the authority, the requirements for licensure, certification,

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registration, or obtaining a permit of such other state are substantially equivalent to that required in Washington.

- (c) Each authority in this title shall develop a method and adopt rules to authorize a person who meets the criteria in (a)(i) through (iii) of this subsection to perform services regulated by the authority in Washington by issuing the person a temporary license, certificate, registration, or permit for a limited period of time to allow the person to perform services regulated by the authority while completing any specific additional requirements in Washington that are not related to training or practice standards of the profession that were not required in the other state in which the person is licensed, certified, or registered, or has a permit)) active duty military spouses who relocate to Washington state and possess substantially equivalent authorization.
- (2) Nothing in this section requires the authority to issue a ((temporary)) license, certificate, registration, or permit if the:
- $\underline{\mbox{(a)}}$ Standards of the other state are substantially unequal to Washington standards ((-
 - (d) An applicant must state in the application that he or she:
- (i) Has requested verification from the other state or states that the person is currently licensed, certified, registered, or has a permit; and
 - (ii) Is not)); or

- (b) Person is subject to any pending investigation, charges, or disciplinary action by the regulatory body of ((the other)) another state or ((states)) territory of the United States.
- $((\frac{(e)}{(e)}))$ <u>(3)</u> If the authority finds reasonable cause to believe that an applicant falsely ((affirmed or stated either of the requirements under (d)(i) or (ii) of this subsection)) provided information, the authority may summarily suspend the license, certificate, registration, or permit pending an investigation or further action to discipline or revoke the license, certificate, registration, or permit.
 - (4) For the purposes of this section:
- 35 (a) "Active duty military spouse" means any person currently
 36 married to someone who is an active or reserve member in any branch
 37 of the armed forces of the United States, including the national
 38 guard, coast guard, and armed forces reserves.

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- 1 (b) "Authority" means any board, commission, or other authority
 2 for issuance of a license, certificate, registration, or permit under
 3 this title.
- (c) "Provisional license, certificate, registration, or permit"
 means immediate authorization to perform the full range of activities
 allowed with a standard license, certificate, registration, or
 permit:
- 8 <u>(i) Under the supervision of a person with a standard Washington</u>
 9 <u>state license, certificate, registration, or permit; and</u>
- (ii) For a period of three years, or the duration of a standard license, certificate, registration, or permit if less than three years.
- (d) "Substantially equivalent authorization" means a license,

 certificate, registration, or permit to practice a profession from

 another state or territory of the United States that uses

 requirements comparable to those used in Washington state.
- 17 **Sec. 9.** RCW 19.02.020 and 2013 c 144 s 16 are each amended to 18 read as follows:

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- The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.
- (1) "Business license" means the single document designed for public display issued by the business licensing service, which certifies state agency or local government license approval and which incorporates the endorsements for individual licenses included in the business licensing system, which the state or local government requires for any person subject to this chapter.
- (2) "Business license application" means a document incorporating pertinent data from existing applications for licenses covered under this chapter.
- (3) "Business licensing service" means the business registration and licensing service established by this chapter and located in and under the administrative control of the department of revenue.
 - (4) "Department" means the department of revenue.
 - (5) "Director" means the director of the department.
- 35 (6) "License" means the whole or part of any agency or local 36 government permit, license, certificate, approval, registration, 37 charter, or any form or permission required by law, including agency 38 rule, to engage in any activity.

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1 (7) "License information packet" means a collection of 2 information about licensing requirements and application procedures 3 custom-assembled for each request.

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- (8) "Participating local government" means a municipal corporation or political subdivision that participates in the business licensing system established by this chapter.
- (9) "Person" means any individual, sole proprietorship, partnership, association, cooperative, corporation, nonprofit organization, state or local government agency, and any other organization required to register with the state or a participating local government to do business in the state or the participating local government and to obtain one or more licenses from the state or any of its agencies or the participating local government.
- 14 (10) "Regulatory" means all licensing and other governmental or 15 statutory requirements pertaining to business or professional 16 activities.
 - (11) "Regulatory agency" means any state agency, board, commission, division, or local government that regulates one or more professions, occupations, industries, businesses, or activities.
 - (12) "Renewal application" means a document used to collect pertinent data for renewal of licenses covered under this chapter.
 - (13) "System" or "business licensing system" means the procedure by which business licenses are issued and renewed, license and regulatory information is collected and disseminated with due regard to privacy statutes, and account data is exchanged by the agencies and participating local governments.
- 27 (14) "Active duty military spouse" means any person currently
 28 married to someone who is an active or reserve member in any branch
 29 of the armed forces of the United States, including the national
 30 guard, coast guard, and armed forces reserves.
- 31 **Sec. 10.** RCW 19.02.070 and 2013 c 144 s 19 are each amended to read as follows:
 - (1) Any person requiring licenses that have been incorporated into the system must submit a business license application to the department requesting the issuance of the licenses. The business license application form must contain in consolidated form information necessary for the issuance of the licenses.
- 38 (2) The applicant must include with the application the sum of 39 all fees and deposits required for the requested individual license

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endorsements as well as the handling fee established by the department under the authority of RCW 19.02.075.

- (3) (a) Irrespective of any authority delegated to the department to implement the provisions of this chapter, the authority for approving issuance and renewal of any requested license that requires a prelicensing or renewal investigation, inspection, testing, or other judgmental review by the regulatory agency otherwise legally authorized to issue the license must remain with that agency.
- (b) The business licensing service has the authority to issue those licenses for which proper fee payment and a completed application form have been received and for which no prelicensing or renewal approval action is required by the regulatory agency. If the applicant is an active duty military spouse, the department must expedite the approval of those licenses.
- (4) Upon receipt of the application and proper fee payment for any license for which issuance is subject to regulatory agency action under subsection (3) of this section, the department must immediately notify the regulatory agency with authority to approve issuance or renewal of the license requested by the applicant. If the applicant is an active duty military spouse, the department must require the agency to expedite processing of the application. Each regulatory agency must advise the department within a reasonable time after receiving the notice: (a) That the agency approves the issuance of the requested license and will advise the applicant of any specific conditions required for issuing the license; (b) that the agency denies the issuance of the license and gives the applicant reasons for the denial; or (c) that the application is pending.
- (5) The department must issue a business license endorsed for all the approved licenses to the applicant and advise the applicant of the status of other requested licenses. It is the responsibility of the applicant to contest the decision regarding conditions imposed or licenses denied through the normal process established by statute or by the regulatory agency with the authority for approving issuance of the license.
- 35 (6) Regulatory agencies must be provided information from the 36 business license application for their licensing and regulatory 37 functions.
- **Sec. 11.** RCW 19.02.075 and 2013 c 144 s 20 are each amended to read as follows:

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- 1 (1) Except as provided in subsection (2) of this section, the department must collect a handling fee on each business license 2 application and each renewal application filing. The department must 3 set the amount of the handling fees by rule, as authorized by RCW 4 19.02.030. The handling fees may not exceed nineteen dollars for each 5 6 business license application, and eleven dollars for each business 7 license renewal application filing, and must be deposited in the business license account. The department may increase handling and 8 renewal fees for the purposes of making improvements in the business 9 licensing service program, including improvements in technology and 10 11 customer services, expanded access, and infrastructure.
- 12 (2) The department may not collect a handling fee for an initial
 13 business license application for any applicant who is an active duty
 14 military spouse.
- 15 **Sec. 12.** RCW 43.24.086 and 1999 c 240 s 2 are each amended to 16 read as follows:

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It shall be the policy of the state of Washington that the cost of each professional, occupational($(\{\cdot,\cdot\})$), or business licensing program be fully borne by the members of that profession, occupation($(\{\cdot,\cdot\})$), or business. The director of licensing shall from time to time establish the amount of all application fees, license fees, registration fees, examination fees, permit fees, renewal fees, and any other fee associated with licensing or regulation of professions, occupations($(\{\cdot,\cdot\})$), or businesses, except for health professions, administered by the department of licensing. In fixing said fees, the director shall set the fees for each such program at a sufficient level to defray the costs of administering that program. All such fees shall be fixed by rule adopted by the director in accordance with the provisions of the administrative procedure act, chapter 34.05 RCW. No fees shall be charged to an active duty military spouse.

- 32 **Sec. 13.** RCW 43.70.110 and 2015 c 77 s 1 are each amended to 33 read as follows:
- 34 (1) The secretary shall charge fees to the licensee for obtaining 35 a license. Physicians regulated pursuant to chapter 18.71 RCW who 36 reside and practice in Washington and obtain or renew a retired 37 active license are exempt from such fees. After June 30, 1995, 38 municipal corporations providing emergency medical care and

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transportation services pursuant to chapter 18.73 RCW shall be exempt from such fees, provided that such other emergency services shall only be charged for their pro rata share of the cost of licensure and inspection, if appropriate. The secretary may waive the fees when, in the discretion of the secretary, the fees would not be in the best interest of public health and safety, or when the fees would be to the financial disadvantage of the state.

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- (2) Except as provided in subsection (3) of this section, fees charged shall be based on, but shall not exceed, the cost to the department for the licensure of the activity or class of activities and may include costs of necessary inspection.
- (3) License fees shall include amounts in addition to the cost of licensure activities in the following circumstances:
- (a) For registered nurses and licensed practical nurses licensed under chapter 18.79 RCW, support of a central nursing resource center as provided in RCW 18.79.202;
- (b) For all health care providers licensed under RCW 18.130.040, the cost of regulatory activities for retired volunteer medical worker licensees as provided in RCW 18.130.360; and
- (c) For physicians licensed under chapter 18.71 RCW, physician assistants licensed under chapter 18.71A RCW, osteopathic physicians licensed under chapter 18.57 RCW, osteopathic physicians' assistants licensed under chapter 18.57A RCW, naturopaths licensed under chapter RCW, podiatrists licensed under chapter 18.22 chiropractors licensed under chapter 18.25 RCW, psychologists licensed under chapter 18.83 RCW, registered nurses and licensed practical nurses licensed under chapter 18.79 RCW, optometrists licensed under chapter 18.53 RCW, mental health counselors licensed under chapter 18.225 RCW, massage therapists licensed under chapter 18.108 RCW, advanced social workers licensed under chapter 18.225 independent clinical social workers and independent clinical social worker associates licensed under chapter 18.225 RCW, midwives licensed under chapter 18.50 RCW, marriage and family therapists and marriage and family therapist associates licensed under chapter 18.225 RCW, occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants licensed under chapter 18.59 RCW, dietitians nutritionists certified under chapter 18.138 RCW, speech-language RCW, and East Asian pathologists licensed under chapter 18.35 medicine practitioners licensed under chapter 18.06 RCW, the license fees shall include up to an additional twenty-five dollars to be

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transferred by the department to the University of Washington for the purposes of RCW 43.70.112.

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- (4) Department of health advisory committees may review fees established by the secretary for licenses and comment upon the appropriateness of the level of such fees.
 - (5) No fees shall be charged to an active duty military spouse.
- 7 **Sec. 14.** RCW 43.70.250 and 2017 c 195 s 26 are each amended to 8 read as follows:
- 9 (1) It shall be the policy of the state of Washington that the 10 cost of each professional, occupational, or business licensing 11 program be fully borne by the members of that profession, occupation, 12 or business.
 - (2) The secretary shall from time to time establish the amount of all application fees, license fees, registration fees, examination fees, permit fees, renewal fees, and any other fee associated with licensing or regulation of professions, occupations, or businesses administered by the department. Any and all fees or assessments, or both, levied on the state to cover the costs of the operations and activities of the interstate health professions licensure compacts with participating authorities listed under chapter 18.130 RCW shall be borne by the persons who hold licenses issued pursuant to the authority and procedures established under the compacts. In fixing said fees, the secretary shall set the fees for each program at a sufficient level to defray the costs of administering that program and the cost of regulating licensed volunteer medical workers in accordance with RCW 18.130.360, except as provided in RCW 18.79.202. In no case may the secretary increase a licensing fee for an ambulatory surgical facility licensed under chapter 70.230 RCW prior to July 1, 2018, nor may he or she commence the adoption of rules to increase a licensing fee prior to July 1, 2018.
- 31 (3) All such fees shall be fixed by rule adopted by the secretary 32 in accordance with the provisions of the administrative procedure 33 act, chapter 34.05 RCW.
- 34 (4) No fees shall be charged to an active duty military spouse.
- 35 **Sec. 15.** RCW 73.16.010 and 1975 1st ex.s. c 198 s 1 are each amended to read as follows:
- In every public department, and upon all public works of the state, and of any county thereof, honorably discharged soldiers,

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1 sailors, and marines who are veterans of any war of the United States, or of any military campaign for which a campaign ribbon shall 2 have been awarded, and their widows or widowers, shall be preferred 3 for appointment and employment. Age, loss of limb, or other physical 4 impairment, which does not in fact incapacitate, shall not be deemed 5 to disqualify them, provided they possess the capacity necessary to 6 7 discharge the duties of the position involved: PROVIDED, ((spouses of honorably discharged veterans who have a service 8 connected permanent and total disability)) military spouses shall 9 also be preferred for appointment and employment. 10

- 11 **Sec. 16.** RCW 73.16.110 and 2011 c 144 s 1 are each amended to 12 read as follows:
- 13 (1) The legislature intends to establish a permissive preference 14 in private employment for certain veterans <u>and military spouses</u>.
 - (2) In every private, nonpublic employment in this state, honorably discharged soldiers, sailors, and marines who are veterans of any war of the United States, or of any military campaign for which a campaign ribbon has been awarded((, and their widows or widowers)), may be preferred for employment. ((Spouses of honorably discharged veterans who have a service connected permanent and total disability)) Military spouses may also be preferred for employment. These preferences are not considered violations of any state or local equal employment opportunity law, including but not limited to any statute or regulation adopted under chapter 49.60 RCW.
 - (3) For the purposes of this section:

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- (a) "Military spouse" means any person currently or previously married to a military service member during the military service member's time of active duty. Active duty may have been in any branch of the armed forces of the United States, including the national guard, coast guard, and armed forces reserves.
- 31 <u>(b)</u> "Veteran" has the same meanings as defined in RCW 41.04.005 32 and 41.04.007, and includes a current member of the national guard or 33 armed forces reserves who has been deployed to serve in an armed 34 conflict.
- 35 **Sec. 17.** RCW 49.74.005 and 1985 c 365 s 7 are each amended to 36 read as follows:
- Discrimination because of race, creed, color, national origin, age, sex, marital status, <u>veteran status</u>, <u>military spouse status</u>, or

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- the presence of any sensory, mental, or physical handicap is contrary to the findings of the legislature and public policy. The legislature finds and declares that racial minorities, women, persons in protected age groups, persons with disabilities, veterans, Vietnamera veterans, ((and disabled)) veterans with disabilities, and military spouses are underrepresented in Washington state government employment.
 - The purpose of this chapter is to provide for enforcement measures for affirmative action within Washington state government employment and institutions of higher education in order to eliminate such underrepresentation.
- **Sec. 18.** RCW 41.06.530 and 2011 1st sp.s. c 43 s 429 are each 13 amended to read as follows:
 - (1) The legislature recognizes that:

- (a) The labor market and the state government workforce are diverse in terms of gender, race, ethnicity, age, <u>veteran status</u>, <u>military spouse status</u>, and the presence of disabilities.
- 18 (b) The state's personnel resource and management practices must 19 be responsive to the diverse nature of its workforce composition.
- 20 (c) Managers in all agencies play a key role in the 21 implementation of all critical personnel policies.
 - It is therefore the policy of the state to create an organizational culture in state government that respects and values individual differences and encourages the productive potential of every employee.
 - (2) To implement this policy:
 - (a) The office of financial management shall, in consultation with agencies, employee organizations, employees, institutions of higher education, and related boards, review civil service rules and related policies to ensure that they support the state's policy of valuing and managing diversity in the workplace; and
 - (b) The department of enterprise services, in consultation with agencies, employee organizations, and employees, institutions of higher education, and related boards, develop training programs for all managers to enhance their ability to implement diversity policies and to provide a thorough grounding in all aspects of the state civil service law and merit system rules, and how the proper implementation and application thereof can facilitate and further the mission of the agency.

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- 1 (3) The department of enterprise services and the office of 2 financial management shall coordinate implementation of this section 3 with the institutions of higher education and related boards to 4 reduce duplication of effort.
- 5 **Sec. 19.** RCW 73.16.120 and 2015 c 57 s 2 are each amended to 6 read as follows:
 - (1) The department of veterans affairs, employment security department, and department of commerce shall consult local chambers of commerce, associate development organizations, and businesses to initiate a demonstration campaign to increase veteran and military spouse employment. This campaign may include partnerships with chambers of commerce that result in business owners sharing, with the local chamber of commerce, information on the number of veterans employed and the local chambers of commerce providing this information to the department of veterans affairs.
 - (2) The department of veterans affairs, employment security department, and department of commerce shall develop and deliver training and other resources for employers addressing:
- 19 <u>(a) The elimination of barriers to veteran and military spouse</u> 20 employment; and
- 21 <u>(b) Strategies for recruiting and retaining veteran and military</u> 22 spouse employees.
 - (3) Participants in the campaign are encouraged to work with the Washington state military transition council and county veterans' advisory boards as defined in RCW 73.08.035.
 - (((3) Funding for the campaign shall be established from existing resources.))
 - (4) For the purposes of this section $((\tau))$:

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- 29 (a) "Military spouse" means any person currently or previously
 30 married to a military service member during the military service
 31 member's time of active duty. Active duty may have been in any branch
 32 of the armed forces of the United States, including the national
 33 guard, coast guard, and armed forces reserves.
- 34 <u>(b)</u> "Veteran" means any veteran discharged under honorable 35 conditions.
- 36 **Sec. 20.** RCW 82.04.4498 and 2015 3rd sp.s. c 6 s 1002 are each 37 amended to read as follows:

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(1) A person is allowed a credit against the tax due under this chapter as provided in this section. The credit equals twenty percent of wages and benefits paid to or on behalf of a qualified employee up to a maximum of one thousand five hundred dollars for each qualified employee hired on or after October 1, 2016.

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- (2) No credit may be claimed under this section until a qualified employee has been employed for at least two consecutive full calendar quarters.
- (3) Credits are available on a first-in-time basis. department must keep a running total of all credits allowed under this section and RCW 82.16.0499 during each fiscal year. The department may not allow any credits that would cause the total credits allowed under this section and RCW 82.16.0499 to exceed five hundred thousand dollars in any fiscal year. If all or part of a claim for credit is disallowed under this subsection, the disallowed portion is carried over to the next fiscal year. However, the carryover into the next fiscal year is only permitted to the extent that the cap for the next fiscal year is not exceeded. Priority must be given to credits carried over from a previous fiscal year. The department must provide written notice to any person who has claimed tax credits in excess of the limitation in this subsection. The notice must indicate the amount of tax due and provide that the tax be paid within thirty days from the date of the notice. The department may not assess penalties and interest as provided in chapter 82.32 RCW on the amount due in the initial notice if the amount due is paid by the due date specified in the notice, or any extension thereof.
 - (4) The credit may be used against any tax due under this chapter, and may be carried over until used, except as provided in subsection (9) of this section. No refunds may be granted for credits under this section.
- (5) If an employer discharges a qualified employee for whom the employer has claimed a credit under this section, the employer may not claim a new credit under this section for a period of one year from the date the qualified employee was discharged. However, this subsection (5) does not apply if the qualified employee was discharged for misconduct, as defined in RCW 50.04.294, connected with his or her work or discharged due to a felony or gross misdemeanor conviction, and the employer contemporaneously documents the reason for discharge.

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(6) Credits earned under this section may be claimed only on returns filed electronically with the department using the department's online tax filing service or other method of electronic reporting as the department may authorize. No application is required to claim the credit, but the taxpayer must keep records necessary for the department to determine eligibility under this section including records establishing the person's status as a veteran and status as unemployed when hired by the taxpayer.

- (7) No person may claim a credit against taxes due under both this chapter and chapter 82.16 RCW for the same qualified employee.
- (8) The definitions in this subsection apply throughout this section unless the context clearly requires otherwise.
- (a) "Military spouse" means any person currently or previously married to a military service member during the military service member's time of active duty. Active duty may have been in any branch of the armed forces of the United States, including the national guard, coast guard, and armed forces reserves.
- (b)(i) "Qualified employee" means an unemployed veteran or military spouse who is employed in a permanent full-time position for at least two consecutive full calendar quarters. For seasonal employers, "qualified employee" also includes the equivalent of a full-time employee in work hours for two consecutive full calendar quarters.
- 24 (ii) For purposes of this subsection (8)(((a))) <u>(b)</u>, "full time" 25 means a normal workweek of at least thirty-five hours.
 - $((\frac{b}{b}))$ (c) "Unemployed" means that the veteran was unemployed as defined in RCW 50.04.310 for at least thirty days immediately preceding the date that the veteran was hired by the person claiming credit under this section for hiring the veteran.
 - $((\frac{c}{c}))$ <u>(d)</u> "Veteran" means every person who has received an honorable discharge or received a general discharge under honorable conditions or is currently serving honorably, and who has served as a member in any branch of the armed forces of the United States, including the national guard and armed forces reserves.
 - (9) Credits allowed under this section can be earned for tax reporting periods through June 30, 2022. No credits can be claimed after June 30, 2023.
 - (10) This section expires July 1, 2023.

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Sec. 21. RCW 50.62.020 and 1987 c 284 s 2 are each amended to read as follows:

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

- (1) "Job service" means the employment assistance program of the employment security department.
- (2) "Employment assistance" means services to unemployed persons focused on and measured by the obtaining of employment.
- (3) "Labor exchange" means those activities which match labor supply and labor demand, including recruitment, screening, and referral of qualified workers to employers.
- (4) "Special account of the administrative contingency fund" means that fund under RCW 50.24.014 established within the administrative contingency fund of the employment security department which provides revenue for the purposes of this chapter.
- (5) "Continuous wage and benefit history" means an information and research system utilizing a longitudinal database containing information on both employment and unemployment.
- (6) "Long-term unemployed" means demographic groups of unemployment insurance claimants identified by the employment security department pursuant to RCW 50.62.040(1)(e) which have the highest percentages of persons who have drawn at least fifteen weeks of unemployment insurance benefits or have the highest percentage of persons who have exhausted their unemployment insurance benefits.
- (7) "Older unemployed workers" means unemployment insurance claimants who are at least fifty years of age.
- 27 (8) "Military spouses" means any person currently or previously
 28 married to a military service member during the military service
 29 member's time of active duty. Active duty may have been in any branch
 30 of the armed forces of the United States, including the national
 31 guard, coast guard, and armed forces reserves.
 - Sec. 22. RCW 50.62.030 and 2017 c 39 s 10 are each amended to read as follows:
 - (1) Job service resources must be used to assist with the reemployment of unemployed workers using the most efficient and effective means of service delivery. The job service program of the employment security department may undertake any program or activity for which funds are available and which furthers the goals of this

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1 chapter. These programs and activities must include, but are not 2 limited to:

- (a) Giving older unemployed workers ((and)), the long-term unemployed, and military spouses the highest priority for all services made available under this section. The employment security department must make the services provided under this chapter available to the older unemployed workers ((and)), the long-term unemployed, and military spouses as soon as they register under the employment assistance program;
- (b) Supplementing basic employment services, with special job search and claimant placement assistance designed to assist unemployment insurance claimants to obtain employment;
- (c) Providing employment services, such as recruitment, screening, and referral of qualified workers, to agricultural areas where these services have in the past contributed to positive economic conditions for the agricultural industry; and
- (d) Providing otherwise unobtainable information and analysis to the legislature and program managers about issues related to employment and unemployment.
- (2) Individuals who are eligible for services under the federal workforce innovation and opportunity act, P.L. 113-128 or its successor, must be provided the opportunity to enroll in self-employment assistance or entrepreneurial training programs to prepare them for self-employment on the same basis as they are provided the opportunity to enroll in other training programs funded under the federal workforce innovation and opportunity act. The department must work with local workforce development councils to ensure that the contracting process with training providers is efficient and that the number of entrepreneurial training providers on the state's eligible training provider list is sufficient to meet demand. Each local workforce development council must:
- (a) Notify all individuals eligible for services under the workforce innovation and opportunity act of the availability of self-employment assistance and entrepreneurial training; and
- (b) Establish and implement a plan for expending workforce innovation and opportunity act funds on self-employment assistance and entrepreneurial training at a rate that is commensurate with either the demand for such services or the rate of self-employment within the council's workforce development area.

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NEW SECTION. Sec. 23. A new section is added to chapter 43.330 RCW to read as follows:

- (1) The legislature recognizes that the departments of veterans affairs, social and health services, health, and commerce, the employment security department, the Washington student achievement council, the state board for community and technical colleges, the health care authority, the office of financial management, and the United States department of defense, in addition to other agencies, each have comprehensive data that can contribute greatly to understanding the demographics of military spouses, as defined in RCW 50.62.020, and military families in the state.
- (2) For the purposes of improving the state's ability to support military families, the department shall convene a work group of representatives from the agencies listed in subsection (1) of this section and any other agency or entity the department finds appropriate to develop recommendations on best practices for collecting demographic data on military families receiving services, support, assistance, and benefits from the state agencies.
- (3) The department must convene the work group and issue a report of findings and recommendations to the joint committee of veterans' and military affairs by December 31, 2019.
 - (4) The work group must, at a minimum:

- 23 (a) Determine what data on military families is already being 24 collected by each agency;
 - (b) Establish best practices for agencies to share demographic data on military families in order to better serve and support military families; and
 - (c) Recommend methods to encourage military families to selfidentify for the purposes of collecting demographic data.
 - (5) (a) If the work group's recommendations can be implemented by the agencies without legislative action, the agencies shall implement the recommendations within one year of the work group's report.
 - (b) If legislative action is required to implement the work group's recommendations, the department shall request legislation in the legislative session following the issuance of the work group's report.
 - (6) In coordination with the work group, the office of financial management shall develop and issue a report on military spouses residing in Washington state to the joint committee on veterans' and military affairs by December 31, 2019. The report must include, at a

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minimum: The actual or estimated number of spouses currently married to active duty service members; spouses currently married to active duty service members who have moved to Washington state over the past year; spouses currently married to separated service members; and spouses previously married to active duty service members.

- (7) In coordination with the work group, the employment security department shall develop and issue a report on working-age military spouses residing in Washington state to the joint committee on veterans' and military affairs by December 31, 2019. The report must include, at a minimum: The actual or estimated labor force participation rate; the unemployment rate; and average wages.
- NEW SECTION. Sec. 24. A new section is added to chapter 39.19
 RCW to read as follows:
 - (1) By January 1, 2020, the office shall design and implement a two-year pilot program to conduct outreach to military spouses who are women and minority business owners, for the purposes of providing support and technical assistance to those business owners.
- 18 (2) In designing and implementing the pilot program, the office 19 shall, at a minimum:
 - (a) Focus on one military installation community; and
 - (b) Partner with the department of commerce, the department of veterans affairs, the United States small business administration, nonprofit organizations, and any other organizations that provide small business support, such as advising, planning, networking, and alternative financing.
 - (3) By December 31, 2021, the office shall provide a report to the joint committee on veterans' and military affairs on the office's outreach efforts, the number of business owners who participated in the pilot program, and the status of the businesses that were part of the pilot program.
 - (4) For the purposes of this section, "military spouse" means any person currently or previously married to a military service member during the military service member's time of active duty. Active duty may have been in any branch of the armed forces of the United States, including the national guard, coast guard, and armed forces reserves.

--- END ---

(5) This section expires December 31, 2023.

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