
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2456

State of Washington

65th Legislature

2018 Regular Session

By House Community Development, Housing & Tribal Affairs (originally sponsored by Representatives Kilduff, McCabe, Orwall, Reeves, Kraft, Senn, Gregerson, Muri, Riccelli, Stanford, Tharinger, and Young)

1 AN ACT Relating to increasing employment opportunities for
2 spouses of military members; amending RCW 73.16.120; adding a new
3 section to chapter 50.20 RCW; and providing an expiration date.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 73.16.120 and 2015 c 57 s 2 are each amended to read
6 as follows:

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

17 (2) Participants in the campaign are encouraged to work with the
18 Washington state military transition council and county veterans'
19 advisory boards as defined in RCW 73.08.035.

20 (3) Funding for the campaign shall be established from existing
21 resources.

1 (4) For the purposes of this section((τ)):

2 (a) "Veteran" means any veteran discharged under honorable
3 conditions.

4 (b) "Military member on active duty" means a person who is
5 serving on full-time active military duty in the armed forces of the
6 United States.

7 NEW SECTION. Sec. 2. A new section is added to chapter 50.20
8 RCW to read as follows:

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

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

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

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

1 required to effectively implement the plan. The study and report must
2 be conducted within existing resources.

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

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