

**SENATE RESOLUTION No. \_\_\_\_**

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DIGEST OF INTRODUCED RESOLUTION

A SENATE RESOLUTION urging the legislative council to assign to an appropriate interim study committee the topic of examining barriers to competitive, integrated employment for individuals with disabilities.

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**YODER**

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\_\_\_\_\_, read first time and referred to Committee on

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Introduced

First Regular Session 122nd General Assembly (2021)

## SENATE RESOLUTION \_\_\_\_\_

MADAM PRESIDENT:

I offer the following resolution and move its adoption:

1           A SENATE RESOLUTION urging the legislative council  
2 to assign to an appropriate interim study committee the topic of  
3 examining barriers to competitive, integrated employment for  
4 individuals with disabilities.

5           *Whereas, Individuals with disabilities in Indiana face*  
6 *substantive barriers to competitive, integrated employment in*  
7 *Indiana, and although they are willing and able to successfully*  
8 *hold employment, their efforts to do so are frequently*  
9 *discouraged or prohibited by numerous barriers;*

10           *Whereas, In an effort to advance Hoosiers with disabilities*  
11 *in the workforce and assist Indiana's economy, the Indiana*  
12 *General Assembly passed the Employment First Act in 2017,*  
13 *which aimed to address these problems, however, more*  
14 *discussion is needed to identify resources to effectively*  
15 *eliminate significant barriers to employment;*

16           *Whereas, The barriers that hold Hoosiers with disabilities*  
17 *back from holding gainful employment have a detrimental and*  
18 *widespread effect, as only 38.6% of working-age Hoosiers with*  
19 *disabilities were employed in 2017, in comparison to the 78.8%*  
20 *of Hoosiers without disabilities, and only 20.8% of those with*

2021

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1 *intellectual and developmental disabilities were employed that*  
2 *same year;*

3 *Whereas, Leaving out 184,343 Hoosiers of working age*  
4 *who are willing and able to hold employment is a loss for*  
5 *Indiana's economy, as a 2018 report, "Getting to Equal: The*  
6 *Disability Inclusion Advantage," states, if merely one percent*  
7 *of unemployed individuals with disabilities joined the*  
8 *workforce, the United States' gross domestic product would*  
9 *increase by up to twenty-five billion dollars;*

10 *Whereas, The Indiana Senate encourages the legislative*  
11 *council to study the following barriers that restrict Hoosiers*  
12 *with disabilities from holding employment: limited access to*  
13 *affordable and accessible transportation; benefit barriers;*  
14 *Indiana laws and policies enabling segregated work sites for,*  
15 *and the payment of subminimum wages to, Hoosiers with*  
16 *disabilities; limited access to assistive technology; and the*  
17 *Bureau of Rehabilitation Services' order of selection;*

18 *Whereas, Due to employment barriers, Hoosiers with*  
19 *disabilities may be limited to certain types of employment, the*  
20 *number of hours they can work, the locations where they can*  
21 *accept employment, and the amount of money they can earn,*  
22 *maintaining the economic disparities between Hoosiers with*  
23 *and without disabilities;*

24 *Whereas, Employment barriers also adversely affect*  
25 *Indiana employers, who lose the opportunity to hire and*  
26 *promote valuable employees that would contribute to both*  
27 *businesses and the greater Indiana economy;*

28 *Whereas, Employees with disabilities offer tangible benefits*  
29 *to the workplace by increasing innovation, improving*  
30 *productivity, and encouraging more inclusive work*  
31 *environments; and*

32 *Whereas, It is imperative to Hoosiers with disabilities,*



1 *Hoosier employers, and the Indiana economy that the barriers*  
2 *limiting Hoosiers with disabilities from pursuing integrated*  
3 *employment with competitive wages be eliminated: Therefore,*

4 *Be it resolved by the Senate of the*  
5 *General Assembly of the State of Indiana:*

6 SECTION 1. That the Indiana Senate urges the legislative  
7 council to assign to the appropriate study committee the topic  
8 of studying the barriers to competitive, integrated employment  
9 that Hoosiers with disabilities face.

10 SECTION 2. That the Study Committee create an advisory  
11 subcommittee that consists of disability-led advocacy  
12 organizations and allies, including the Executive Director of  
13 Indiana Disability Rights, or their designee; the Executive  
14 Director of the Governor's Council for People with Disabilities,  
15 or their designee; the Executive Director of the Indiana  
16 Statewide Independent Living Council, or their designee; the  
17 President of Self-Advocates of Indiana, or their designee; the  
18 Executive Director of the Arc of Indiana, or their designee; and  
19 the President of Indiana APSE, or their designee.

20 SECTION 3. The Secretary of the Senate is hereby directed  
21 to transmit a copy of this Resolution to the Legislative  
22 Committee.

