
HOUSE BILL 2456

State of Washington

65th Legislature

2018 Regular Session

By Representatives Kilduff, McCabe, Orwall, Reeves, Kraft, Senn, and Gregerson

Prefiled 01/05/18.

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.

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