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ENGROSSED SENATE BILL 5524

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State of Washington

64th Legislature

2015 Regular Session

By Senators Sheldon, Rivers, Parlette, Angel, Bailey, Becker, Warnick, Honeyford, Brown, Dammeier, and Conway

Read first time 01/23/15. Referred to Committee on Government Operations & State Security.

1 AN ACT Relating to enhancing the employment of persons with  
2 disabilities; adding a new section to chapter 43.41 RCW; and creating  
3 new sections.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that eleven percent  
6 of working age adults and thirteen percent of the state's total  
7 population consists of persons with disabilities, that persons with  
8 disabilities suffer significantly higher rates of unemployment and  
9 underemployment than in the general population, and that  
10 representation of disabled persons in the state workforce has  
11 declined in recent years, but has increased during the last year. The  
12 legislature further finds that there is no policy similar to Schedule  
13 A in the federal civil service system for priority hiring of persons  
14 with disabilities. Therefore, the legislature intends to increase the  
15 hiring of persons with disabilities in the state workforce.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 43.41  
17 RCW to read as follows:

18 (1) By January 31st of each year, state agencies employing one  
19 hundred or more people must submit a report to the human resources  
20 director within the office of financial management, with copies to

1 the director of the department of social and health services'  
2 division of vocational rehabilitation and the governor's committee on  
3 disabilities and employment.

4 (2) The report must include the following information:

5 (a) The number of employees during the previous calendar year;

6 (b) The number of employees classified as individuals with  
7 disabilities;

8 (c) The number of employees that separated during the state  
9 agency the previous year;

10 (d) The number of employees that were hired by the state agency  
11 during the previous year;

12 (e) The number of employees hired from a division of vocational  
13 rehabilitation services or from the division of the services for the  
14 blind program during the previous year;

15 (f) The number of planned hires for the current year; and

16 (g) Opportunities for internships for a division of vocational  
17 rehabilitation or division of the services for the blind client  
18 placement leading to an entry-level position placement upon  
19 successful completion for the current year.

20 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** This act may be known and cited as the  
21 state employment disability parity act.

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