

From the Desk of Representative
Fagan:



**VOTE YES ON HB 3248-A
QRF Worker Protection Bill**

Background—

Qualified Rehabilitation Facilities (QRFs) are organized as non-profits and employ individuals with disabilities.

QRFs enter into non-competitive (e.g. not a low-bid, but a no-bid process) contracts with state and local agencies for janitorial, landscape maintenance, and similar services and various agency products.

Oregon Department of Administrative Services administers the QRF program but is mostly responsible for ensuring that 75% of the employees of the QRFs are disabled. Most QRF's operate in local government settings.

Problem—

Local and State Government may choose to terminate or contract with a new QRF for service contracts based on management or scope of work regardless of workforce performance.

Given that these are no-bid contracts these changes in QRF are not subject to a public bidding process or other procurement rules for contracts.

This turnover can be disruptive for a disabled workforce and often will leave workers who have held those jobs unemployed.

There is often no way for staff to transition between a QRF and a competitive company.

Solutions—

HB 3248-A

Allows QRF workers 90 days to decide if they want to retain their jobs if the contracting management team loses the contract and is replaced with a new QRF management team as long as the contract was not lost due to poor employee performance.

Ultimately it would be up to the employees whether or not they want to keep their jobs.

Allows a non-QRF contractor to contract with agencies if any of the other QRFs are in violation of labor laws or do not comply with local labor and employment standards and agrees to retain the existing workforce.