

STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Consumer Protection and Government Effectiveness

Fiscal: Has minimal fiscal impact

Revenue: No Revenue Impact

Action Date: 04/21/15

Action: Do Pass As Amended And Be Printed Engrossed.

Meeting Dates: 03/17, 04/21

Vote:

Yeas: 4 - Fagan, Holvey, McLain, Rayfield

Nays: 2 - Nearman, Stark

Exc: 1 - Buehler

Prepared By: Wendy Simons, Committee Administrator

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires public agency terminating contract with qualified nonprofit agency for individuals with disabilities (QRF) to require in new contract for same work that contractor must offer employment to employees of terminated QRF at terms as or more favorable than terms under former contract. Allows contracting agency to require QRFs to comply with applicable local ordinances governing labor standards and to disqualify from public contracts QRFs repeatedly violating local labor standard ordinances.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Historical evolution of employment and training for individuals with developmental disabilities
- Ability of individuals with developmental disabilities to navigate Bureau of Labor and Industry complaint process
- Effect on QRF employment of requiring increased wage rates
- Effect on workers employed at replacement QRF of requiring replacement QRF to employ workers from former QRF

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

Deletes provisions relating to wage requirements and enforcement of wage and labor standards by the Bureau of Labor and Industries at QRFs. Extends employee retention period from 60 days to 90 days for employees at QRF which has lost contract or has not been renewed.

BACKGROUND:

The QRF program, established by the Legislative Assembly in 1977, is intended to encourage and assist individuals with disabilities to achieve maximum personal independence through useful and productive gainful employment by assuring an expanded and constant market for sheltered workshop and activity center products and services. Public agencies must procure products and services goods from a QRF, at the prices established by the Department of Administrative Services, provided that the products and services are of the appropriate specifications and are available within the time period needed. In 2014, there were 35 QRFs employing 4,332 persons with disabilities. State and local governments procured goods and services totaling approximately \$45 million. Janitorial services, temporary staffing and unarmed security account for the vast majority of contracts.