

## HB 4041 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

### House Committee On Higher Education and Workforce Development

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**Action Date:** 02/13/18

**Action:** Do pass with amendments  
and be referred to Ways and Means by prior reference. (Printed A-Eng.)

**Vote:** 9-0-0-0

**Yeas:** 9 - Alonso Leon, Bynum, Clem, Heard, Noble, Reardon, Reschke, Sollman, Whisnant

**Fiscal:** Fiscal impact issued

**Revenue:** No revenue impact

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#### WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Establishes a Task Force on Workforce Development for People with Disabilities (Task Force). Requires the Task Force to establish policies and strategies for increasing opportunities for competitive integrated employment of people with disabilities in state government; evaluate state programs related to employing people with disabilities; and report findings and make recommendations to the committees of the Legislative Assembly related to workforce. Sunsets the Task Force on December 31, 2020. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

#### ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- The state as a model employer of people with disabilities
- The need for a strategic, coordinated state plan for increasing employment opportunities for people with disabilities
- Insufficient data on workforce programs for this population

#### EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Reduces the quantity of Oregon Disabilities Commission Task Force (Task Force) appointments from six to five members. Adds a designee of the Director of Human Services with experience administering vocational rehabilitation programs to the Task Force, and broadens the language regarding the Oregon Resource Association Task Force member to include consideration of any entity that represents providers of services to people with disabilities for Task Force membership. Clarifies that Task Force policies and strategies for increasing opportunities for employment means increasing opportunities for competitive integrated employment. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

#### BACKGROUND:

According to the Council of State Governments and the National Conference of State Legislatures, people with disabilities experience unemployment rates far above national and state averages. There are currently 350,586 working age individuals with disabilities living in Oregon, and 35.7 percent are employed in comparison to 72 percent of working age Oregonians without disabilities. Consequently, people with disabilities experience poverty and economic insecurity in substantial numbers. Oregon law declares state government a leader in providing fair and equal opportunities for employment and advancement of individuals from groups that have experienced past and present discrimination, including people with disabilities (ORS 243.305). House Bill 4041 A creates the Task Force on Workforce Development for People with Disabilities (Task Force), and requires the Task Force to establish policies and strategies for increasing opportunities for competitive integrated employment of people with disabilities in state government.

The Oregon Disabilities Commission (ORS 185.150) is a governor-appointed commission that is charged with coordinating public and private organizations serving individuals with disabilities. The commission is responsible for advising the governor, Department of Human Services, Oregon Health Authority, and Legislative Assembly on services and resources needed to serve individuals with disabilities.