

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 40

BY DIX, WITT, BODDICKER, DRAKE, CARROLL,
HORBACH, RAECKER, REYNOLDS, T. TAYLOR, JOCHUM,
FALCK, and SCHRADER

A Resolution urging the establishment of a State Task
Force on Employment of Iowans With Disabilities.

WHEREAS, many Iowans experience a physical or
mental impairment that substantially limits at least
one major life activity, and, due to this impairment,
some of these disabled Iowans have difficulty finding
or sustaining gainful employment; and

WHEREAS, a need exists for a coordinated and
aggressive state policy to bring Iowans with
disabilities into gainful employment at a rate as
close as possible to that of the general adult
population; and

WHEREAS, there is a need for a coordinated state
policy to reduce the barriers for Iowans with
disabilities in the areas of employer accommodations,
access to health care, transportation, accessible and
integrated housing, telecommunications, assistive
technology, community services, child care, education,
vocational rehabilitation and training services,
workplace support, and economic incentives to work;
and

WHEREAS, to ensure that Iowa state government is a
model employer of adults with disabilities, the
Department of Personnel, the Department of Human
Rights, the Department of Education, Division of
Vocational Rehabilitation Services, the Department of

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1 Human Services' state Independent Living Council and
2 Creative Employment Options, and Iowa Workforce
3 Development need to review state personnel laws,
4 regulations, and policies, and recommend or implement
5 changes necessary to improve employment policies for
6 Iowans with disabilities; and

7 WHEREAS, the Department of Economic Development
8 needs to review the effort to develop small business
9 and entrepreneurial opportunities to assist in the
10 self-sufficiency of Iowans with disabilities; and

11 WHEREAS, the Department of Transportation needs to
12 examine the programs in place to determine if existing
13 programs can be used to create new work incentives and
14 remove barriers to work for Iowans with disabilities;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, the Department of Public Health needs to
17 examine the measures taken pursuant to the
18 disabilities chapter of the Healthy Iowans 2010 plan,
19 and determine its efficacy as it relates to Iowans
20 with disabilities; and

21 WHEREAS, in order to coordinate the individual
22 efforts of the departments, a unifying entity should
23 be created, and a Task Force on Employment of Iowans
24 With Disabilities should be created to carry out the
25 goals of employment and gainful economic activities of
26 individuals with disabilities; NOW THEREFORE,

27 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
28 That the House of Representatives urges Governor
29 Thomas J. Vilsack to establish a Task Force on
30 Employment of Iowans With Disabilities, and appoint as

1 members the Directors of the Department of Education,
2 Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services, the
3 Department of Personnel, the Department of Human
4 Rights, the Department of Human Services' state
5 Independent Living Council and creative Employment
6 Options, the Department of Public Health, the
7 Department of Economic Development, the Department of
8 Transportation, and Iowa Workforce Development, or the
9 Directors' designees, and other persons knowledgeable
10 in these areas.

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a Task Force on
12 Employment of Iowans With Disabilities should be
13 charged with identifying employment issues and
14 exploring resolutions to barriers confronting Iowans
15 with Disabilities, by working with the departments and
16 agencies of state government as well as private sector
17 employers, organizations that represent persons with
18 disabilities, organized labor, veterans service
19 organizations, and county and local governments, and
20 further be charged with reporting to the Governor and
21 the General Assembly the findings and recommendations
22 of the Task Force.

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