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## **Rep. Gina McCabe introduces legislation to increase veteran employment**

In an effort to increase veteran employment in Washington state, [Rep. Gina McCabe](#) has introduced [House Bill 2040](#).

"The unemployment rate for veterans, especially our young veterans, is very high and they are having a difficult time breaking in or returning to the job market," said **McCabe, R-Goldendale**. "This legislation gives us the opportunity to pay it forward to those who have made great self-sacrifice to serve our country and protect us."

Washington state is home to about 600,000 veterans. The unemployment rate for veterans between the age of 18-25 is 21 percent.

"Our veterans have diverse and valued skill sets, especially in the fields of health care and technology. They also have a strong work ethic and leadership qualities, so I could see this being a win-win for employers in our state and the veterans," said **McCabe**.

The bill directs the Department of Veterans' Affairs, Employment Security, and Department of Commerce to consult with local chambers of commerce, associate development organizations and businesses to initiate a campaign resulting in an increase in veteran employment in Washington.

"The bill is not a mandate on business, but a goal of doing the right thing," said **McCabe**.  
"One Business, One Vet', and I am going to start with my own family small businesses."

The state Department of Veterans' Affairs would maintain a database of those participating and share percentages of cities, counties and districts that employ at least one veteran. The department would also use existing resources.

The bill is scheduled for a public hearing on Tuesday, Feb. 17 at 1:30 p.m. in the **House Community Development, Housing and Tribal Affairs Committee**.

**For more information about Rep. McCabe, visit:**  
**[www.representativeginamccabe.com](http://www.representativeginamccabe.com)**.

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