

HB 1052 -- MISSOURI EMPLOYMENT FIRST ACT

SPONSOR: Unsicker

This bill establishes the "Missouri Employment First Act." The bill requires all state agencies that provide employment-related services or provide services or support to persons with disabilities to coordinate with other agencies, share data when feasible, and consider competitive employment in an integrated setting as the first and priority option when providing services to persons with disabilities of working age. This bill defines "competitive employment" as full or part-time work in the competitive labor market in an integrated setting in which a disabled person is compensated at or above minimum wage but not less than the customary wage paid by the employer for the same or similar work performed by persons without disabilities. The bill provides that this shall not be construed as requiring any state agency or employer to give a preference in hiring to persons with disabilities.