

## **Kansas Employment First Initiative Act and Oversight Commission**

**HB 2336** creates the Kansas Employment First Initiative Act and the Kansas Employment First Oversight Commission. The bill requires state programs and services that support employment of persons with disabilities to consider, as their first option, competitive and integrated employment for persons with disabilities. The bill does not require an employer to give preference to hiring persons with a disability.

The bill requires all state agencies to follow the policy for employment by coordinating and collaborating efforts among agencies. In addition, agencies may share data and information whenever possible across systems in order to track progress. State agencies may adopt rules and regulations to implement the Act.

The bill directs the Governor to designate a cabinet agency as the lead agency to compile data and coordinate the preparation of the annual report at the direction of the Kansas Employment First Oversight Commission.

The bill establishes the Kansas Employment First Oversight Commission as a five-member commission, with members serving three-year terms. Each of the following would have one appointment to the Commission: Speaker of the House, Minority Leader of the House, President of the Senate, Minority Leader of the Senate, and the Governor. The Commission meets at least four times per year.

By January 1, the Commission submits an annual report to the Governor and the Legislature. The report details progress made toward the goals and objectives as well as strategies and policies to help realize the Kansas Employment First Initiative Act.