New rules could close sheltered workshops

Families of disabled people fear a safe haven could be lost.

By Matt Carnelli
Atlanta Journal

Leslie Wilkens stocks food shelves instead of shelves at a shoe store. She is one of the 1 million people nationwide who work in sheltered workshops for people with disabilities, earning at least minimum wage. Wilkens, who is deaf, said she makes $8 an hour, which is below the federal poverty line.

Wilkens does this three days a week in a shoe store in an Atlanta area mall. She is one of the 300,000 people who work in sheltered workshops.

The U.S. Department of Labor announced a new rule that could force many sheltered workshops to close or significantly change the way they operate.

The question is whether this will harm the thousands of people who are currently employed in sheltered workshops or if it will lead to better jobs for people with disabilities.

The Department of Labor announced a new rule that could force many sheltered workshops to close or significantly change the way they operate.

The new rule, which is expected to take effect in 2016, would require sheltered workshops to provide job placements for all people with disabilities, even if they are not able to work full-time.

The rule would also require sheltered workshops to provide higher wages and benefits to people with disabilities, even if they are not able to work full-time.

The rule is a response to a lawsuit filed by the National Association of Realtors, which argued that the current rule allowing sheltered workshops to pay workers less than the minimum wage is discriminatory.

The lawsuit was filed in 2012 and the Department of Labor announced a new rule in 2015 that would allow sheltered workshops to pay workers less than the minimum wage if they are paid for at least 40 hours a week.

The new rule was challenged in court and a federal judge ruled that it was unlawful.

The Department of Labor is appealing the decision and is expected to release a new rule later this year.

The new rule will likely require sheltered workshops to provide higher wages and benefits to people with disabilities, even if they are not able to work full-time.

The new rule is expected to take effect in 2016 and will provide new opportunities for people with disabilities to work in sheltered workshops.

About 450,000 people nationwide work in sheltered workshops or participate in segregated day programs.

Maserati is an iconic Italian brand and Jim Ellis Maserati is the best buying experience hands down.

Do You Kudzu?

Find Recommended Local Services

KUDZU.COM
