S-3457.2

SENATE BILL 6440

State of Washington 57th Legislature 2002 Regular Session

By Senators Prentice, Fairley, Kohl-Welles, Winsley, Keiser, McAuliffe, Poulsen, Franklin, Brown, Spanel and Carlson

Read first time 01/17/2002. Referred to Committee on Labor, Commerce & Financial Institutions.

1 AN ACT Relating to labor relations at the public four-year 2 institutions of higher education; adding a new chapter to Title 41 RCW; 3 and creating a new section.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 <u>NEW SECTION.</u> Sec. 1. LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS OF FACT AND STATEMENTS 6 OF POLICY. The legislature finds and declares that:

7 (1) The people of the state of Washington have a fundamental
8 interest in developing harmonious and cooperative labor relations
9 within the public four-year institutions of higher education.

10 (2) Teachers in the public school system and instructors in the 11 community colleges in the state have been granted the opportunity to 12 bargain collectively. It would be desirable to expand the jurisdiction 13 of the public employment relations commission to cover faculty in the 14 state's public four-year institutions of higher education.

(3) It is the purpose of this chapter to provide the means by which relations between the boards of regents and trustees of the public four-year institutions of higher education of the state of Washington and their faculty may assure that the responsibilities and authorities granted to these institutions are carried out in an atmosphere that

permits the fullest participation by faculty in determining the 1 conditions of employment which affect them. It is the intent of the 2 legislature to accomplish this purpose by providing a uniform structure 3 4 for recognizing the right of faculty of the public four-year institutions of higher education to full freedom of association, self-5 organization, and designation of representatives of their own choosing 6 7 for the purpose of exclusive representation in their employment 8 relationships with the boards of regents and trustees and to select an 9 organization as their exclusive representative for the purpose of collective bargaining, if they should so choose. 10

(4) It is the further purpose of this chapter to provide orderly and clearly defined procedures for collective bargaining and dispute resolution, and to define and prohibit certain practices that are contrary to the public interest.

15 NEW SECTION. Sec. 2. EXERCISE OF FUNCTIONS OF FACULTY IN SHARED 16 GOVERNANCE--GUARANTEE OF ACADEMIC FREEDOM. (1) The legislature 17 recognizes that consultation and joint decision making between 18 administration and faculty is the long-accepted manner of governing public four-year institutions of higher education and is essential to 19 performing their educational missions. The legislature declares that 20 it is the purpose of this chapter to both preserve and encourage that 21 Nothing contained in this chapter shall be construed to 22 process. 23 restrict, limit, or prohibit the exercise by the faculty in any shared 24 governance systems or practices with respect to policies on academic 25 and professional matters affecting the public four-year institutions of higher education. 26

(2) It is the policy of the state of Washington to encourage the pursuit of excellence in teaching, research, and learning through the free exchange of ideas among the faculty, students, and staff of its institutions. All parties subject to this chapter shall respect and endeavor to preserve academic freedom.

32 (3) In the absence of a valid collective bargaining, and for 33 matters excluded under section 4 of this act, the rules, regulations, 34 provisions, and procedures policies and practices manuals in public 35 four-year institutions of education shall govern relations between 36 faculty and the respective boards of regents and trustees.

<u>NEW SECTION.</u> Sec. 3. DEFINITIONS. The definitions in this
 section apply throughout this chapter unless the context clearly
 requires otherwise.

4 (1) "Faculty governance system" means the internal organization
5 created by the faculty to serve as its advisory body and charged with
6 the responsibility for recommending policies, regulations, and rules
7 for the college or university.

8 (2) "Grievance arbitration" means a method to resolve disputes 9 arising out of interpretations or application of the terms of an 10 agreement under which the parties to a controversy must accept the 11 decision of a third party.

(3) "Collective bargaining" and "bargaining" mean the performance 12 13 of the mutual obligation of the representatives of the employer and the 14 exclusive bargaining representative to meet at reasonable times to 15 bargain in good faith in an effort to reach agreement with respect to 16 wages, hours, and other terms and conditions of employment. A written 17 contract incorporating any agreements reached must be executed if requested by either party. The obligation to bargain does not compel 18 19 either party to agree to a proposal or to make a concession.

In the event of a dispute between an employer and an exclusive bargaining representative over the matters that are terms and conditions of employment, the commission shall decide which items are mandatory subjects for bargaining, subject to the exclusions in section 4 of this act.

(4) "Commission" means the public employment relations commissionestablished pursuant to RCW 41.58.010.

(5) "Faculty" means employees who are designated with faculty 27 28 status or who perform faculty duties at each of the public four-year 29 of higher education as defined institutions through policies 30 established by the faculty governance system, excluding casual or 31 temporary employees, administrators, confidential employees, graduate student employees, postdoctoral and clinical employees, and employees 32 subject to chapter 41.06 or 41.56 RCW. 33

(6) "Employee organization" means any organization that includes as its members faculty of the employer and that has as one of its purposes representation of faculty pursuant to this chapter. A faculty governance system is not an employee organization as defined in this subsection.

(7) "Employer" means the boards of regents and boards of trustees
 of the public four-year institutions of higher education.

3 (8) "Exclusive bargaining representative" means any employee 4 organization that has been determined by the commission to represent 5 all of the faculty of the bargaining unit pursuant to section 6 of this 6 act.

7 (9) "Administrator" means all deans, associate and assistant deans,
8 vice-provosts, vice-presidents, the provost, chancellors,
9 vice-chancellors, and the president, and all such other faculty who
10 exercise managerial or supervisory authority over other faculty.

(10) "Confidential employee" means (a) a person who participates 11 12 directly on behalf of an employer in the formulation of labor relations 13 policy, the preparation for or conduct of collective bargaining, or the administration of a collective bargaining agreement, if the role of the 14 15 person is not merely routine or clerical in nature but calls for the 16 consistent exercise of independent judgment; and (b) a person who 17 assists and acts in a confidential capacity to a person in (a) of this subsection. 18

(11) "Bargaining unit" includes all faculty of all campuses of each of the colleges and universities. It is the intent of this chapter that there be only one bargaining unit allowable under these provisions for faculty of each employer, containing all faculty, as defined in this section, from all schools, colleges, and campuses of each of the employers.

(12) "Public four-year institutions of higher education" means the
University of Washington, Washington State University, Eastern
Washington University, Western Washington University, Central
Washington University, and The Evergreen State College.

29 <u>NEW SECTION.</u> Sec. 4. SCOPE OF BARGAINING. (1) Faculty may, 30 pursuant to the terms of this chapter, elect an exclusive bargaining 31 representative to bargain with the employer over wages, hours of 32 employment, and other terms and conditions of employment. Prohibited 33 subjects of bargaining include but are not limited to the following:

(a) Consideration of the merits, necessity, or organization of any
service, activity, or program established by law or resolution of the
employer, except for the terms and conditions of employment of faculty
who may be affected by such service, activity, or program.

1 (b) The amount of any fees that are not a term or condition of 2 employment.

3 (c) Admission requirements for students, conditions for the award 4 of certificates and degrees, and the content, methods, supervision, and 5 evaluation of courses, curricula, and research programs.

6 (2) Permissive subjects of bargaining include, but are not limited 7 to, criteria and standards to be used for the appointment, promotion, 8 evaluation, and tenure of faculty.

9 (3) Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit the right 10 of the employer to consult with any employee or faculty governance 11 system on any matter outside the scope of bargaining.

12 Sec. 5. RIGHT TO ORGANIZE OR REFRAIN FROM NEW SECTION. 13 Faculty have the right to self-organization, to form, ORGANIZING. 14 join, or assist employee organizations, and to bargain collectively 15 through exclusive representatives of their own choosing, and also have 16 the right to refrain from any or all of these activities except to the extent that faculty may be required to make payments to an exclusive 17 18 bargaining representative or charitable organization under a union 19 security provision authorized in this chapter.

20 NEW SECTION. Sec. 6. DUTY OF FAIR REPRESENTATION. The employee organization which has been determined by the commission to represent 21 22 all faculty of the bargaining unit shall be the exclusive bargaining 23 representative of, and shall be required to represent, all the faculty 24 within the bargaining unit without regard to membership in that employee organization: PROVIDED, That any faculty may at any time 25 present his or her complaints or concerns to the employer and have such 26 27 complaints or concerns adjusted without intervention of the exclusive 28 bargaining representative, as long as the exclusive bargaining 29 representative has been given an opportunity to be present at the adjustment and to make its views known, and as long as the adjustment 30 31 is not inconsistent with the terms of a collective bargaining agreement 32 then in effect.

33 <u>NEW SECTION.</u> Sec. 7. REPRESENTATION CASE PROCEDURE. The 34 commission shall resolve any dispute concerning selection of an 35 exclusive bargaining representative in accordance with the procedures 36 specified in this section.

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1 (1) No question concerning representation may be raised within one 2 year following issuance of a certification under this section.

3 (2) Where there is a valid collective bargaining agreement in 4 effect, no question concerning representation may be raised except 5 during the period not more than ninety nor less than sixty days prior to the expiration date of the agreement: PROVIDED, That in the event 6 7 a valid collective bargaining agreement, together with any renewals or 8 extensions thereof, has been or will be in existence for more than 9 three years, then a question concerning representation may be raised 10 not more than ninety nor less than sixty days prior to the third anniversary date or any subsequent anniversary date of the agreement; 11 and if the exclusive bargaining representative is removed as the result 12 13 of such procedure, the collective bargaining agreement shall be deemed 14 to be terminated as of the date of the certification or the anniversary 15 date following the filing of the petition, whichever is later.

16 (3) An employee organization seeking certification as exclusive 17 bargaining representative of a bargaining unit of faculty, or bargaining unit faculty seeking decertification of their exclusive 18 19 bargaining representative, shall make a confidential showing to the commission of credible evidence demonstrating that at least thirty 20 percent of the faculty in the bargaining unit are in support of the 21 petition. The petition must indicate the name, address, and telephone 22 23 number of any employee organization known to claim an interest in the 24 bargaining unit.

(4) A petition filed by an employer must be supported by credible evidence demonstrating the good faith basis on which the employer claims the existence of a question concerning the representation of its faculty.

(5) Any employee organization which makes a confidential showing to the commission of credible evidence demonstrating that it has the support of at least ten percent of the faculty in the bargaining unit involved is entitled to intervene in proceedings under this section and to have its name listed as a choice on the ballot in an election conducted by the commission.

(6) The commission shall determine any question concerning
 representation by conducting a secret ballot election among the faculty
 in the bargaining unit, except under the following circumstances:

(a) If only one employee organization is seeking certification asexclusive bargaining representative of a bargaining unit for which

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1 there is no incumbent exclusive bargaining representative, the 2 commission may, upon the concurrence of the employer and the employee 3 organization, determine the question concerning representation by 4 conducting a cross-check comparing the employee organization's 5 membership records or bargaining authorization cards against the 6 employment records of the employer; or

7 (b) If the commission determines that a serious unfair labor 8 practice has been committed which interfered with the election process 9 and precludes the holding of a fair election, the commission may 10 determine the question concerning representation by conducting a cross-11 check comparing the employee organization's membership records or 12 bargaining authorization cards against the employment records of the 13 employer.

14 (7) The representation election ballot must contain a choice for 15 each employee organization qualifying under subsection (3) or (5) of 16 this section, together with a choice for no representation. The representation election shall be determined by the majority of the 17 valid ballots cast. If there are three or more choices on the ballot 18 19 and none of the three or more choices receives a majority of the valid ballots cast, a runoff election shall be conducted between the two 20 choices receiving the highest and second highest numbers of votes. 21

22 Sec. 8. DISPUTES CONCERNING THE APPROPRIATE UNIT. NEW SECTION. 23 In any dispute concerning membership in the bargaining unit or the 24 allocation of employees or positions to bargaining units, the 25 commission, after a hearing or hearings, shall determine the dispute, 26 taking into consideration the duties, skills, and working conditions of 27 the employees, the extent of organization among the employees, the community of interest among the employees, the desire of the employees, 28 29 and the overall management structure of the employer including the 30 interrelationships of divisions within the institution and the existence of branch campuses. Unnecessary fragmentation shall be 31 32 avoided.

33 <u>NEW SECTION.</u> Sec. 9. NEGOTIATIONS REDUCED TO WRITTEN AGREEMENTS--34 PROVISIONS RELATING TO SALARY INCREASES--RESTRICTIONS. (1) If 35 appropriations are necessary to implement the compensation provisions 36 of the bargaining agreement agreed to under the provisions of this 37 chapter, the governor shall submit a request for such funds to the

1 legislature. The governor shall submit a request for funds within ten 2 days of the date on which the exclusive bargaining representative 3 ratifies the agreement or, if the legislature is not in session, within 4 ten days after the legislature next convenes. Request for funds 5 necessary to implement the provisions of bargaining agreements shall 6 not be submitted to the legislature by the governor unless such 7 requests:

8 (a) Have been submitted to the director of the office of financial 9 management prior to October 1 of the year they are negotiated;

10 (b) Have been certified by the director of the office of financial 11 management as being feasible financially for the state.

12 (2) The legislature shall approve or reject the submission of the 13 request for funds as a whole. If the legislature rejects or fails to 14 act on the submission, either party may request to reopen all or part 15 of the agreement.

16 (3) Each of the public four-year institutions of higher education 17 may provide additional salary increases to faculty that exceed those 18 provided by the legislature.

19 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 10.** NEGOTIATED AGREEMENTS--PROCEDURES FOR A board of regents or trustees and an exclusive 20 ARBITRATION. bargaining representative that enter into a negotiated agreement under 21 22 this chapter may include in the agreement procedures for grievance 23 arbitration of the disputes arising about the interpretation or 24 application of the agreement. Any such agreement that is made pursuant 25 to this chapter may contain provision for the final and binding 26 arbitration of grievance disputes arising over the interpretation or application of the agreement. 27

(1) The parties to a collective bargaining agreement may agree on one or more permanent umpires to serve as arbitrator, or may agree on any impartial person to serve as arbitrator, or may agree to select arbitrators from any source available to them, including federal and private agencies, in addition to the staff and dispute resolution panel maintained by the commission.

(2) An arbitrator may require any person to attend as a witness, and to bring with him or her any book, record, document, or other evidence. Subpoenas shall issue and be signed by the arbitrator and shall be served in the same manner as subpoenas to testify before a court of record in this state. The fees for such attendance shall be

1 paid by the party requesting issuance of the subpoena and shall be the 2 same as the fees of witnesses in the superior court. If any person so 3 summoned to testify refuses or neglects to obey such subpoena, upon 4 petition authorized by the arbitrator, the superior court may compel 5 the attendance of such person before the arbitrator, or punish the 6 person for contempt in the same manner provided for the attendance of 7 witnesses or the punishment of them in the courts of this state.

8 (3) The arbitrator shall appoint a time and place for the hearing 9 and notify the parties thereof, and may adjourn the hearing from time 10 to time as may be necessary, and, on application of either party and for good cause, may postpone the hearing to a time not extending beyond 11 12 a date fixed by the collective bargaining agreement for making the 13 The arbitrator has the power to administer oaths. award. The arbitration award shall be in writing and signed by the arbitrator or 14 15 a majority of the members of the arbitration panel. The arbitrator 16 shall, promptly upon its rendition, serve a true copy of the award on 17 each of the parties or their attorneys.

(4) If a party to a collective bargaining agreement negotiated 18 19 pursuant to the provisions of this chapter refuses to submit a 20 grievance for arbitration, the other party to the collective bargaining agreement may invoke the jurisdiction of the superior court for any 21 22 county in which the labor dispute exists, and such court has 23 jurisdiction to issue an order compelling arbitration. The commission, 24 on its own motion, may invoke the jurisdiction of the superior court 25 where a work stoppage is in existence. Arbitration shall be ordered if 26 the grievance states a claim which on its face is covered by the collective bargaining agreement, and doubts as to the coverage of the 27 arbitration clause shall be resolved in favor of arbitration. Disputes 28 concerning compliance with grievance procedures shall be reserved for 29 30 determination by the arbitrator.

(5) If a party to a collective bargaining agreement negotiated 31 pursuant to the provisions of this chapter refuses to comply with the 32 33 award of an arbitrator determining a grievance arising under such collective bargaining agreement, the other party to the collective 34 35 bargaining agreement, or any affected employee, may invoke the jurisdiction of the superior court for any county in which the labor 36 37 dispute exists, and such court has jurisdiction to issue an order enforcing the arbitration award. The commission, on its own motion, 38 39 may invoke the jurisdiction of the superior court where a work stoppage

1 is in existence. The court shall not substitute its judgment for that 2 of the arbitrator and shall enforce any arbitration award which is 3 based on the collective bargaining agreement, except that an 4 arbitration award shall not be enforced and a new arbitration 5 proceeding may be ordered:

6 (a) If the arbitration award was procured by corruption, fraud, or7 undue means;

8 (b) If there was evident partiality or corruption in the arbitrator9 or arbitrators;

10 (c) If the arbitrator or arbitrators were guilty of misconduct, in 11 refusing to postpone a hearing upon sufficient cause shown, or in 12 refusing to hear evidence pertinent and material to the controversy, or 13 of any other misbehavior by which the rights of any party have been 14 prejudiced; or

(d) If the arbitrator or arbitrators have exceeded their powers, or so imperfectly executed them that a final and definite award on the subject matter was not made, in which event the court also has discretion to remand the matter to the arbitrator or arbitrators who issued the defective award.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 11. COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT--EXCLUSIVE 20 BARGAINING REPRESENTATIVE--UNION SECURITY PROVISIONS--DUES AND FEES. 21 (1) Upon the voluntary written authorization of a bargaining unit 22 23 employee, the employer shall deduct from the pay of the employee the 24 periodic dues and initiation fees uniformly required as a condition of 25 acquiring or retaining membership in the exclusive bargaining representative. The employee authorization may be irrevocable for up 26 27 to one year. Such dues and fees must be transmitted monthly by the employer to the exclusive bargaining representative or to the 28 29 depository designated by the exclusive bargaining representative.

30 (2) A collective bargaining agreement may include union security 31 provisions, but not a closed shop. If such provisions are agreed to, 32 the employer shall enforce any union security provision by monthly 33 deductions from the pay of all bargaining unit employees affected by 34 the collective bargaining agreement and shall transmit the funds to the 35 exclusive bargaining representative or to the depository designated by 36 the exclusive bargaining representative.

37 (3) An employee who is covered by a union security provision and38 who asserts a right of nonassociation based on bona fide religious

tenets or teaching of a church or religious body of which the employee 1 is a member shall, as a condition of employment, make alternative 2 payments to a nonreligious charity designated by agreement of the 3 4 employee and the exclusive bargaining representative. The amount of the alternative payment shall be equal to the periodic dues and 5 initiation fees uniformly required as a condition of acquiring or 6 7 retaining membership in the exclusive bargaining representative. The 8 employee shall furnish written proof that the payments have been made. 9 If the employee and the exclusive bargaining representative do not 10 reach agreement on the matter, the dispute shall be submitted to the commission for determination. 11

12 <u>NEW SECTION.</u> Sec. 12. COMMISSION--MEDIATION ACTIVITIES--OTHER 13 DISPUTE RESOLUTION PROCEDURES AUTHORIZED. The commission shall conduct 14 mediation activities upon the request of either party as a means of 15 assisting in the settlement of unresolved matters considered under this 16 chapter.

In the event that any matter being jointly considered by the 17 exclusive bargaining representative and the board of regents or 18 19 trustees is not settled by the means provided in this chapter, either party, twenty-four hours after serving written notice of its intended 20 action to the other party, may request the assistance and advice of the 21 Nothing in this section prohibits an employer and an 22 commission. 23 employee organization from agreeing to substitute, at their own 24 expense, some other impasse procedure or other means of resolving 25 matters considered under this chapter.

26 <u>NEW SECTION.</u> **Sec. 13.** UNFAIR LABOR PRACTICES. (1) It is an 27 unfair labor practice for an employer to:

(a) Interfere with, restrain, or coerce faculty in the exercise ofthe rights guaranteed by this chapter;

30 (b) Dominate or interfere with the formation or administration of 31 any employee organization or contribute financial or other support to 32 it: PROVIDED, That subject to rules adopted by the commission, an 33 employer is not prohibited from permitting faculty to confer with it or 34 its representatives or agents during working hours without loss of time 35 or pay;

(c) Encourage or discourage membership in any employee organization 1 2 by discrimination in regard to hire, tenure of employment, or any term or condition of employment; 3

4 (d) Discharge or discriminate otherwise against a faculty because 5 that faculty has filed charges or given testimony under this chapter; б (e) Refuse to bargain collectively with the exclusive bargaining 7 representative of its faculty.

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(2) It is an unfair labor practice for an employee organization to: 9 (a) Restrain or coerce a faculty in the exercise of the rights guaranteed by this chapter: PROVIDED, That this subsection does not 10 impair the rights of (i) an employee organization to prescribe its own 11 rules with respect to the acquisition or retention of membership in the 12 13 employee organization or (ii) to the rights of an employer in the 14 selection of its representatives for the purpose of bargaining or the 15 adjustment of grievances;

16 (b) Cause or attempt to cause an employer to discriminate against a faculty in violation of subsection (1)(c) of this section; 17

(c) Discriminate against a faculty because that faculty has filed 18 19 charges or given testimony under this chapter;

(d) Refuse to bargain collectively with an employer.

(3) The expressing of any view, arguments, or opinion, or the 21 dissemination thereof to the public, whether in written, printed, 22 graphic, or visual form, shall not constitute or be evidence of an 23 24 unfair labor practice under this chapter, if such expression contains 25 no threat of reprisal or force or promise of benefit.

26 14. STRIKES AND LOCKOUTS PROHIBITED--NEW SECTION. Sec. 27 VIOLATIONS--REMEDIES. The right of faculty to engage in any strike is prohibited. The right of a board of regents or trustees to engage in 28 29 any lockout is prohibited. Should either a strike or lockout occur, the representative of the faculty or board of regents or trustees may 30 invoke the jurisdiction of the superior court in the county in which 31 the labor dispute exists, and such court has jurisdiction to issue an 32 33 appropriate order against either or both parties. In fashioning an 34 order, the court shall take into consideration not only the elements necessary for injunctive relief but also the purpose and goals of this 35 36 chapter and any mitigating factors such as the commission of an unfair 37 labor practice by either party.

1 <u>NEW SECTION.</u> Sec. 15. STATE HIGHER EDUCATION ADMINISTRATIVE 2 PROCEDURES ACT NOT TO AFFECT. Contracts or agreements, or any 3 provision thereof, entered into between boards of regents or trustees 4 and exclusive bargaining representatives pursuant to this chapter are 5 not affected by or subject to chapter 34.05 RCW.

6 <u>NEW SECTION.</u> Sec. 16. SEVERABILITY. If any provision of this act 7 or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the 8 remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other 9 persons or circumstances is not affected.

10 RETROACTIVE ACCRUAL OF BENEFITS AND NEW SECTION. Sec. 17. 11 Whenever a collective bargaining agreement between an SALARIES. employer and an exclusive bargaining representative is concluded after 12 13 the termination date of the previous collective bargaining agreement between the employer and an employee organization representing the same 14 15 employees, the effective date of the collective bargaining agreement may be the day after the termination date of the previous collective 16 17 bargaining agreement, and all benefits included in the new collective 18 bargaining agreement, including wage or salary increases, may accrue beginning with the effective date as established by this section. 19

20 <u>NEW SECTION.</u> Sec. 18. Nothing in this chapter shall be construed 21 to annul, modify, or preclude the renewal or continuation of any lawful 22 agreement entered into before the effective date of this section 23 between an employer and an employee organization covering wages, hours, 24 and terms and conditions of employment.

25 <u>NEW SECTION.</u> Sec. 19. Except as otherwise expressly provided in 26 this chapter, this chapter shall not be construed to deny or otherwise 27 abridge any rights, privileges, or benefits granted by law to 28 employees. This chapter shall not be construed to interfere with the 29 responsibilities and rights of the board of regents or board of 30 trustees as specified by federal and state law.

31 <u>NEW SECTION.</u> **Sec. 20.** Sections 1 through 19 of this act 32 constitute a new chapter in Title 41 RCW.

<u>NEW SECTION.</u> Sec. 21. Section captions used in this act are not
 any part of the law.

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