
**State Government & Tribal Affairs
Committee**

HB 1920

Brief Description: Clarifying that public employees may attend informational or educational meetings regarding legislative issues.

Sponsors: Representatives Hunt, Hasegawa, Williams, Hudgins, Simpson, Santos, Van De Wege and Ormsby.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Allows state employees under the state ethics laws to attend informational and educational meetings on legislative issues with legislators and other elected officials held in public facilities.

Hearing Date: 2/12/09

Staff: Pam Madson (786-7111)

Background:

The Ethics in Public Service Act prohibits state agencies and employees from authorizing the use of state facilities for political campaigning for individuals or ballot measures.

Public funds may not be used to lobby the Legislature except under circumstances that are specifically authorized. Agencies and employees may provide information and communicate with legislators at the request of the member or on requests to members for legislative action that relate to the agency or employee's official business.

Summary of Bill:

It is not a violation of state ethics laws for state employees to attend informational and educational meetings on legislative issues with legislators or other elected officials. These

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meetings may be held in public facilities including state owned and leased buildings. This does not change the prohibition against the use of state facilities for political campaigns or the promotion of, or opposition to, ballot propositions.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of the session in which the bill is passed.