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**HOUSE BILL 1927**

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**State of Washington**

**67th Legislature**

**2022 Regular Session**

**By** Representatives Riccelli, Sullivan, Santos, Simmons, Ramel, Ormsby, and Fey

Read first time 01/12/22. Referred to Committee on Labor & Workplace Standards.

1 AN ACT Relating to encouraging citizens to serve in the  
2 legislature by creating leave provisions for legislative service; and  
3 adding a new chapter to Title 49 RCW.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The Washington state legislature is  
6 purposefully designed to be a part-time legislature to provide people  
7 from all areas of life the opportunity to participate. All businesses  
8 and industries, in the private and public sector, benefit when the  
9 legislature is made up of the broadest possible representation.

10 (2) It is a significant public policy to encourage citizens to  
11 serve in the legislature.

12 (3) Other states have enacted legislation addressing the duties  
13 and responsibilities of legislators and prospective legislators in  
14 relation to their regular employment. It is the intent of this act to  
15 address potential uncertainties that can occur between employers and  
16 employees who are part-time legislators because of the time  
17 requirements of the legislature.

18 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** For the purposes of this chapter,  
19 "employer" means: (1) The state, state institutions, and state  
20 agencies; and (2) any unit of local government including, but not

1 limited to, a county, city, town, municipal corporation, quasi-  
2 municipal corporation, or political subdivision.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) An employer must grant a temporary  
4 leave of absence without loss of job status or seniority to an  
5 employee who is a member of the state legislature in order for that  
6 employee to perform any official duty as a member of the legislature  
7 during regular and special legislative sessions.

8 (2) The leave of absence under this chapter may be unpaid leave.  
9 However, an employee may elect to substitute any accrued paid leave  
10 to which the employee is entitled for any part of the leave provided  
11 under this chapter.

12 (3) An employer may not discharge or threaten to discharge an  
13 employee for taking a leave of absence under this chapter.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** (1) An employee who seeks leave under this  
15 chapter must provide the employer with notice of the employee's  
16 intention to take leave at least 30 days before a regular legislative  
17 session.

18 (2) When a special legislative session is called, the employee  
19 must provide notice to the employer as soon as the governor or  
20 legislature proclaims the special legislative session.

21 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** If an employer violates the provisions of  
22 this chapter, the employee may only bring a civil action, at his or  
23 her own expense, in superior court for an order requiring the  
24 reinstatement of the employee. Public resources may not be used,  
25 directly or indirectly, to bring or maintain a civil action under  
26 this section.

27 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** Sections 1 through 5 of this act  
28 constitute a new chapter in Title 49 RCW.

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