

CERTIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT

HOUSE BILL 1927

67th Legislature
2022 Regular Session

Passed by the House February 8, 2022
Yeas 80 Nays 16

**Speaker of the House of
Representatives**

Passed by the Senate March 4, 2022
Yeas 44 Nays 4

President of the Senate

Approved

Governor of the State of Washington

CERTIFICATE

I, Bernard Dean, Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives of the State of Washington, do hereby certify that the attached is **HOUSE BILL 1927** as passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate on the dates hereon set forth.

Chief Clerk

FILED

**Secretary of State
State of Washington**

HOUSE BILL 1927

Passed Legislature - 2022 Regular Session

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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