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**HOUSE BILL 1871**

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**State of Washington**

**68th Legislature**

**2024 Regular Session**

**By** Representatives Walsh, Graham, Couture, Jacobsen, Sandlin, Caldier, Hutchins, and Griffey

Prefiled 12/05/23. Read first time 01/08/24. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1 AN ACT Relating to the Washington state ferries' treatment of  
2 employees and applicants without consideration of COVID-19 vaccines;  
3 and adding a new section to chapter 47.60 RCW.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 47.60  
6 RCW to read as follows:

7 (1) The Washington state ferries may not require any person hired  
8 on or after the effective date of this section, or any perspective  
9 employee or applicant, as a condition of employment, to present proof  
10 that the person has received a vaccine for COVID-19 or any variant  
11 thereof.

12 (2) Any rule, order, or directive that requires a person hired on  
13 or after the effective date of this section or any perspective  
14 employee or applicant, to be vaccinated against COVID-19 as a  
15 condition of employment is unenforceable.

16 (3) When rehiring employees that ended employment with the  
17 Washington state ferries from August 5, 2021, to May 11, 2023, the  
18 employee may request that COVID-19 or any variant vaccination status  
19 be removed from the employee's personnel files along with any  
20 associated management's adverse actions against the employee. In

1 addition, to the extent possible, any rehired employees must be  
2 restored to their previous level of seniority.

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