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**SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5381**

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**State of Washington**

**68th Legislature**

**2023 Regular Session**

**By** Senate State Government & Elections (originally sponsored by Senators Braun, Pedersen, Boehnke, Conway, Dhingra, Hunt, Keiser, King, Kuderer, Nguyen, Randall, Saldaña, Warnick, C. Wilson, and J. Wilson)

READ FIRST TIME 02/07/23.

1 AN ACT Relating to letters of recommendation or congratulations  
2 sent by legislators; and adding a new section to chapter 42.52 RCW.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 42.52  
5 RCW to read as follows:

6 It is not a violation of this chapter for a legislator to send by  
7 mail or email:

8 (1) A letter of recommendation on behalf of an individual  
9 constituent if the constituent has requested the letter;

10 (2) A congratulatory letter to an individual constituent who has  
11 received an award or honor of extraordinary distinction of a type  
12 that is sufficiently infrequent to be noteworthy to a reasonable  
13 person including, but not limited to: (a) An international or  
14 national award such as the Nobel prize or the Pulitzer prize; (b) a  
15 state award such as Washington scholar; (c) an Eagle Scout award; or  
16 (d) a Medal of Honor; or

17 (3) Except when under a mailing restriction as provided in RCW  
18 42.52.185, a congratulatory letter to an individual constituent who

1 has received an honor or award if the individual or a third party on  
2 the individual's behalf has requested the letter.

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