

CERTIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT

**SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5381**

Chapter 226, Laws of 2023

68th Legislature  
2023 Regular Session

LEGISLATORS—LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION OR CONGRATULATIONS

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 23, 2023

Passed by the Senate February 15,  
2023

Yeas 49 Nays 0

DENNY HECK

**President of the Senate**

Passed by the House April 10, 2023

Yeas 98 Nays 0

Laurie Jinkins

**Speaker of the House of  
Representatives**

Approved May 1, 2023 3:33 PM

CERTIFICATE

I, Sarah Bannister, Secretary of the Senate of the State of Washington, do hereby certify that the attached is **SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5381** as passed by the Senate and the House of Representatives on the dates hereon set forth.

SARAH BANNISTER

**Secretary**

FILED

May 2, 2023

JAY INSLEE

**Governor of the State of Washington**

**Secretary of State  
State of Washington**

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**SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5381**

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Passed Legislature - 2023 Regular Session

**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  
19 has received an honor or award if the individual or a third party on  
20 the individual's behalf has requested the letter.

Passed by the Senate February 15, 2023.  
Passed by the House April 10, 2023.  
Approved by the Governor May 1, 2023.  
Filed in Office of Secretary of State May 2, 2023.

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