
HOUSE BILL 1070

State of Washington 60th Legislature 2007 Regular Session

By Representatives Williams, Hunt, Hudgins, Hasegawa, Appleton,
Simpson and Moeller

Read first time 01/09/2007. Referred to Committee on State
Government & Tribal Affairs.

1 AN ACT Relating to a legislator's use of public resources; amending
2 RCW 42.52.160; and creating a new section.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** It is the intent of the legislature that
5 chapter 42.52 RCW shall not be read to limit a legislator's use of
6 public resources to only investigating facts surrounding an issue or
7 dispute involving constituents and a government office or government
8 official, or between constituents.

9 **Sec. 2.** RCW 42.52.160 and 1996 c 213 s 7 are each amended to read
10 as follows:

11 (1) No state officer or state employee may employ or use any
12 person, money, or property under the officer's or employee's official
13 control or direction, or in his or her official custody, for the
14 private benefit or gain of the officer, employee, or another.

15 (2) This section does not prohibit the use of public resources to
16 benefit others as part of a state officer's or state employee's
17 official duties.

1 (3) The appropriate ethics boards may adopt rules providing
2 exceptions to this section for occasional use of the state officer or
3 state employee, of de minimis cost and value, if the activity does not
4 result in interference with the proper performance of public duties.

5 (4) For purposes of subsection (3) of this section, a de minimis
6 cost includes letters or electronic communication by a legislator
7 advocating a personal position when gathering facts and investigating
8 issues or disputes involving constituents and a government office or
9 government official, or between constituents. All such letters and
10 electronic communications are subject to public disclosure.

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