
HOUSE BILL 1963

State of Washington

67th Legislature

2022 Regular Session

By Representatives McCaslin, McEntire, Eslick, Volz, Graham, Barkis, Young, and Sutherland

Read first time 01/13/22. Referred to Committee on Health Care & Wellness.

1 AN ACT Relating to improving safety and preservation by allowing
2 the Washington state department of transportation to either hire or
3 rehire maintenance and preservation employees that have acquired
4 immunities to COVID-19; adding a new section to chapter 47.04 RCW;
5 and declaring an emergency.

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

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 47.04
8 RCW to read as follows:

9 (1) Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary and when
10 necessary to improve either the safety of the public or the
11 preservation of the state transportation system, which are
12 prioritized in the state transportation system policy goals
13 established in RCW 47.04.280, the department may hire new maintenance
14 and preservation employees and rehire former department maintenance
15 and preservation employees, who have acquired immunities to COVID-19.
16 The department may presume the employee has acquired immunities to
17 COVID-19 if the person either signs a declaration stating that the
18 person had contracted COVID-19 or has proof of a positive COVID-19
19 test.

20 (2) To the extent possible, such rehired employees must be
21 restored to their previous level of seniority.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** This act is necessary for the immediate
2 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of
3 the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes
4 effect immediately.

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