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**HOUSE BILL 2484**

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**State of Washington**

**68th Legislature**

**2024 Regular Session**

**By** Representatives Fitzgibbon, Berry, and Reeves

Read first time 01/26/24. Referred to Committee on State Government & Tribal Relations.

1 AN ACT Relating to exempting certain collective bargaining  
2 activities by legislative employees from state ethics restrictions;  
3 amending RCW 42.52.020 and 42.52.160; and adding a new section to  
4 chapter 44.90 RCW.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 44.90  
7 RCW to read as follows:

8 (1) The following activities conducted by or on behalf of  
9 legislative employees related to collective bargaining under this  
10 chapter are exempt from the restrictions contained in RCW 42.52.020  
11 and 42.52.160:

12 (a) Lobbying conducted by an employee organization, lobbyist,  
13 association, or third party on behalf of legislative employees  
14 concerning legislation that directly impacts legislative workplace  
15 conditions;

16 (b) Communication with a prospective employee organization during  
17 nonwork hours and without the use of public resources; or

18 (c) Conducting the day-to-day work of organizing and representing  
19 legislative employees in the workplace while serving in a legislative  
20 employee organization leadership position.

1 (2) (a) Nothing in this section affects the application of the  
2 prohibition against the use of special privileges under RCW  
3 42.52.070, confidentiality requirements under RCW 42.52.050, or other  
4 applicable provisions of chapter 42.52 RCW to legislative employees.

5 (b) Nothing in this section permits any direct lobbying by a  
6 legislative employee.

7 (3) As used in this section, "lobby" and "lobbyist" have the  
8 meanings provided in RCW 42.17A.005.

9 **Sec. 2.** RCW 42.52.020 and 1996 c 213 s 2 are each amended to  
10 read as follows:

11 (1) No state officer or state employee may have an interest,  
12 financial or otherwise, direct or indirect, or engage in a business  
13 or transaction or professional activity, or incur an obligation of  
14 any nature, that is in conflict with the proper discharge of the  
15 state officer's or state employee's official duties.

16 (2) This section does not apply to activities conducted by  
17 legislative employees authorized under section 1 of this act.

18 **Sec. 3.** RCW 42.52.160 and 2023 c 91 s 3 are each amended to read  
19 as follows:

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

24 (2) This section does not prohibit the use of public resources to  
25 benefit others as part of a state officer's or state employee's  
26 official duties. It is not a violation of this section for a  
27 legislator or an appropriate legislative staff designee to engage in  
28 activities listed under RCW 42.52.070(2) or 42.52.822.

29 (3) This section does not prohibit de minimis use of state  
30 facilities to provide employees with information about (a) medical,  
31 surgical, and hospital care; (b) life insurance or accident and  
32 health disability insurance; or (c) individual retirement accounts,  
33 by any person, firm, or corporation administering such program as  
34 part of authorized payroll deductions pursuant to RCW 41.04.020.

35 (4) The appropriate ethics boards may adopt rules providing  
36 exceptions to this section for occasional use of the state officer or  
37 state employee, of de minimis cost and value, if the activity does

1 not result in interference with the proper performance of public  
2 duties.

3 (5) This section does not apply to activities conducted by  
4 legislative employees authorized under section 1 of this act.

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