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**SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2124**

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**State of Washington**

**67th Legislature**

**2022 Regular Session**

**By** House Appropriations (originally sponsored by Representatives Riccelli, Sullivan, Frame, Ramel, Chapman, Ryu, Paul, Simmons, Stonier, Bergquist, Wicks, Valdez, Gregerson, Santos, Ramos, J. Johnson, Walen, Tharinger, Bateman, Callan, Thai, Taylor, Leavitt, Senn, Wylie, Macri, Ormsby, Pollet, Morgan, Bronoske, Kloba, Davis, Slatter, Berg, Lekanoff, Entenman, Ortiz-Self, Duerr, Peterson, Harris-Talley, Cody, Hackney, Chopp, Orwall, and Rule)

READ FIRST TIME 02/28/22.

1 AN ACT Relating to extending collective bargaining to legislative  
2 employees by creating the office of state legislative labor relations  
3 that will consider issues of the subjects of bargaining, the  
4 employees for whom collective bargaining would be appropriate, who  
5 would provide negotiation services, which entities would be  
6 considered the employer, definitions of relevant terms, coalition  
7 bargaining, grievance procedures, procedures for disciplinary  
8 actions, procedures related to certifying exclusive bargaining  
9 representatives, determining bargaining units, adjudicating unfair  
10 labor practices, and determining representation questions, procedures  
11 for approving negotiated collective bargaining agreements, procedures  
12 for submitting requests for funding, and considering approaches taken  
13 by other state legislatures, and specifying unfair labor practices,  
14 but without mandating what the collective bargaining agreement must  
15 provide regarding wages, hours, working conditions, or other  
16 provisions related to conditions of employment; adding a new chapter  
17 to Title 44 RCW; and providing an effective date.

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

19 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature intends to create the  
20 office of state legislative labor relations for the purposes of  
21 considering and managing the unique issues raised by legislative

1 collective bargaining. By examining issues set forth in section 2 of  
2 this act, the office will provide the legislature with a fuller  
3 understanding of how the legislature as an employer can best  
4 implement legislation for collective bargaining for legislative  
5 employees, which would be administered by the public employment  
6 relations commission.

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) The office of state legislative labor  
8 relations is created to assist the house of representatives, the  
9 senate, and legislative agencies in implementing and managing the  
10 process of collective bargaining for employees of the legislative  
11 branch of state government.

12 (2)(a) Subject to (b) of this subsection, the secretary of the  
13 senate and the chief clerk of the house of representatives shall  
14 employ a director of the office. The director serves at the pleasure  
15 of the secretary of the senate and the chief clerk of the house of  
16 representatives, who shall fix the director's salary.

17 (b) The secretary of the senate and the chief clerk of the house  
18 of representatives shall, before employing a director, consult with  
19 legislative employees, the senate facilities and operations  
20 committee, the house executive rules committee, and the human  
21 resources officers of the house of representatives, the senate, and  
22 legislative agencies.

23 (c) The director serves as the executive and administrative head  
24 of the office and may employ additional employees to assist in  
25 carrying out the duties of the office. The duties of the office  
26 include, but are not limited to, conducting negotiations on behalf of  
27 the employer.

28 (d) The director shall contract with an external consultant for  
29 the purposes of gathering input from legislative employees, taking  
30 into consideration RCW 42.52.020 and rules of the house of  
31 representatives and the senate. The gathering of input must be in the  
32 form of, at a minimum, surveys.

33 (3) The director, in consultation with the secretary of the  
34 senate, the chief clerk of the house of representatives, and the  
35 administrative heads of legislative agencies shall:

36 (a) Examine issues related to collective bargaining for employees  
37 of the house of representatives, the senate, and legislative  
38 agencies; and

1 (b) After consultation with the external consultant, develop best  
2 practices and options for the legislature to consider in implementing  
3 and administering collective bargaining for employees of the house of  
4 representatives, the senate, and legislative agencies.

5 (4) (a) By December 1, 2022, the director shall submit a  
6 preliminary report to the appropriate committees of the legislature  
7 that provides a progress report on the director's considerations.

8 (b) By October 1, 2023, the director shall submit a final report  
9 to the appropriate committees of the legislature. At a minimum, the  
10 final report must address considerations on the following issues:

11 (i) Which employees of the house of representatives, the senate,  
12 and legislative agencies for whom collective bargaining may be  
13 appropriate;

14 (ii) Mandatory, permissive, and prohibited subjects of  
15 bargaining;

16 (iii) Who would negotiate on behalf of the house of  
17 representatives, the senate, and legislative agencies, and which  
18 entity or entities would be considered the employer for purposes of  
19 bargaining;

20 (iv) Definitions for relevant terms;

21 (v) Common public employee collective bargaining agreement  
22 frameworks related to grievance procedures and processes for  
23 disciplinary actions;

24 (vi) Procedures related to the commission certifying exclusive  
25 bargaining representatives, determining bargaining units,  
26 adjudicating unfair labor practices, determining representation  
27 questions, and coalition bargaining;

28 (vii) The efficiency and feasibility of coalition bargaining;

29 (viii) Procedures for approving negotiated collective bargaining  
30 agreements;

31 (ix) Procedures for submitting requests for funding to the  
32 appropriate legislative committees if appropriations are necessary to  
33 implement provisions of the collective bargaining agreements; and

34 (x) Approaches taken by other state legislatures that have  
35 authorized collective bargaining for legislative employees.

36 (5) The report must include a summary of any statutory changes  
37 needed to address the considerations listed in subsection (4) of this  
38 section related to the collective bargaining process for legislative  
39 employees.

1        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 3.**    The definitions in this section apply  
2 throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires  
3 otherwise.

4        (1)    "Commission" means the public employment relations  
5 commission.

6        (2)    "Director" means the director of the office of state  
7 legislative labor relations.

8        (3)    "Legislative agencies" means the joint legislative audit and  
9 review committee, the statute law committee, the legislative ethics  
10 board, the legislative evaluation and accountability program  
11 committee, the office of the state actuary, the legislative service  
12 center, the office of legislative support services, the joint  
13 transportation committee, and the redistricting commission.

14       (4)    "Office" means the office of state legislative labor  
15 relations.

16       NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 4.**    Collective bargaining negotiations under  
17 this chapter shall commence no earlier than May 1, 2024. No  
18 collective bargaining agreement entered into under this chapter may  
19 take effect prior to July 1, 2025.

20       NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 5.**    Except as may be specifically limited by  
21 this chapter, legislative employees shall have the right to self-  
22 organization, to form, join, or assist employee organizations, and to  
23 bargain collectively through representatives of their own choosing  
24 for the purpose of collective bargaining free from interference,  
25 restraint, or coercion. Legislative employees shall also have the  
26 right to refrain from any or all such activities.

27       NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 6.**    Nothing contained in this chapter permits  
28 or grants to any legislative employee the right to strike or refuse  
29 to perform their official duties.

30       NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 7.**    (1) Collective bargaining negotiations  
31 under this chapter must commence no later than July 1st of each even-  
32 numbered year after a bargaining unit has been certified.

33       (2) The duration of any collective bargaining agreement shall not  
34 exceed one fiscal biennium.

1        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 8.**    (1) It is an unfair labor practice for an  
2 employer:

3        (a) To interfere with, restrain, or coerce employees in the  
4 exercise of the rights guaranteed by this chapter;

5        (b) To dominate or interfere with the formation or administration  
6 of any employee organization or contribute financial or other support  
7 to it: PROVIDED, That subject to rules adopted by the commission, an  
8 employer shall not be prohibited from permitting employees to confer  
9 with it or its representatives or agents during working hours without  
10 loss of time or pay;

11       (c) To encourage or discourage membership in any employee  
12 organization by discrimination in regard to hire, tenure of  
13 employment, or any term or condition of employment;

14       (d) To discharge or discriminate otherwise against an employee  
15 because that employee has filed charges or given testimony under this  
16 chapter;

17       (e) To refuse to bargain collectively with the representatives of  
18 its employees.

19       (2) It is an unfair labor practice for an employee organization:

20       (a) To restrain or coerce an employee in the exercise of the  
21 rights guaranteed by this chapter: PROVIDED, That this subsection  
22 shall not impair the right of an employee organization to prescribe  
23 its own rules with respect to the acquisition or retention of  
24 membership in the employee organization or to an employer in the  
25 selection of its representatives for the purpose of bargaining or the  
26 adjustment of grievances;

27       (b) To cause or attempt to cause an employer to discriminate  
28 against an employee in violation of subsection (1)(c) of this  
29 section;

30       (c) To discriminate against an employee because that employee has  
31 filed charges or given testimony under this chapter;

32       (d) To refuse to bargain collectively with an employer.

33       (3) The expressing of any views, arguments, or opinion, or the  
34 dissemination thereof to the public, whether in written, printed,  
35 graphic, or visual form, shall not constitute or be evidence of an  
36 unfair labor practice under this chapter, if such expression contains  
37 no threat of reprisal or force or promise of benefit.

38       NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 9.**    Sections 1 through 8 and 10 of this act  
39 constitute a new chapter in Title 44 RCW.

1        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 10.**    Sections 3 through 8 of this act take  
2 effect May 1, 2024.

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