

CHAPTER 377.

[H. B. 683.]

PUBLIC OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES—SUBVERSIVE
ACTIVITIES—OATH.

AN ACT relating to subversive activities; requiring state, county and municipal employers to ask employees under oath concerning memberships in the communist party or other subversive groups; and amending section 12, chapter 254, Laws of 1951 and RCW 9.81.070 and section 13, chapter 254, Laws of 1951 and RCW 9.81.080.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Washington:

SECTION 1. Section 12, chapter 254, Laws of 1951 and RCW 9.81.070 are each amended to read as follows:

Amendment.

Every person and every board, commission, council, department, court or other agency of the state of Washington or any political subdivision thereof, who or which appoints or employs or supervises in any manner the appointment or employment of public officials or employees shall establish by rules, regulations or otherwise, procedures designed to ascertain whether any person is a subversive person. In securing any facts necessary to ascertain the information herein required, the applicant shall be required to sign a written statement containing answers to such inquiries as may be material, which statement shall contain notice that it is subject to the penalties of perjury. Every such person, board, commission, council, department, court, or other agency shall require every employee or applicant for employment to state under oath whether or not he or she is a member of the communist party or other subversive organization, and refusal to answer on any grounds shall be cause for immediate termination of such employee's employment or for refusal to accept his or her application for employment.

Procedures established to ascertain subversives.

Written statement by applicant.

Statement under oath.

Grounds for termination.

Amendment.

SEC. 2. Section 13, chapter 254, Laws of 1951 and RCW 9.81.080 are amended to read as follows:

The inquiries prescribed in preceding sections, other than the written statement to be executed by an applicant for employment and the requirement set forth in section 1 of this amendatory act, relative to membership in the communist party or other subversive organization, shall not be required as a prerequisite to the employment of any persons in any case in which the employing authority may determine, and by rule or regulation specify the reasons why, the nature of the work to be performed is such that employment of such persons will not be dangerous to the health of the citizens or the security of the governments of the United States, the state of Washington, or any political subdivision thereof.

Application of act by employing authority; waiver of inquiry.

Membership in subversive organization defined.

SEC. 3. For the purpose of this act, membership in a subversive organization shall be membership in any organization after it has been placed on the list of organizations designated by the attorney general of the United States as being subversive pursuant to executive order No. 9835.

Membership deemed subversive activity.

SEC. 4. The communist party is a subversive organization within the purview of RCW 9.81 and membership in the communist party is a subversive activity thereunder.

Passed the House March 9, 1955.

Passed the Senate March 8, 1955.

Approved by the Governor March 21, 1955.