

CHAPTER 136
[House Bill No. 474]
PUBLIC EMPLOYEES—POLITICAL
CONTRIBUTIONS AND ACTIVITIES

AN ACT Relating to public employees; and amending section 25, chapter 1, Laws of 1961 and RCW 41.06.250.

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

Section 1. Section 25, chapter 1, Laws of 1961 and RCW 41.06.250 are each amended to read as follows:

(1) Solicitation for or payment to any partisan, political organization or for any partisan, political purpose of any compulsory assessment or involuntary contribution is prohibited; PROVIDED, HOWEVER, That officers of employee associations shall not be prohibited from soliciting dues or contributions from members of their associations. No ((person)) elected official or employee of the state or a political subdivision thereof shall solicit on state property or property of a political subdivision of this state any contribution to be used for ((partisan;)) political purposes.

(2) Employees of the state or any political subdivision thereof shall have the right to vote and to express their opinions on all political subjects and candidates ((; but shall not)) and to hold any political party office or participate in the management of a partisan, political campaign. Nothing in this section shall prohibit ((a classified)) an employee of the state or any political subdivision thereof from participating fully in campaigns relating to constitutional amendments, referendums, initiatives, and issues of a similar character, and for nonpartisan offices.

(3) ((Nothing in this section shall prohibit appointment, nomination or election to)) A classified civil service employee shall not hold a part time public office in a political subdivision of the state when the holding of such office is ((not)) incompatible with, ((nor)) or substantially interferes with, the discharge of official duties in state employment.

(4) For persons employed in state agencies or agencies of any political subdivision of the state the operation of which is financed in total or ((in part)) primarily by federal grant-in-aid funds political activity will be regulated by the rules and regulations of the United States civil service commission.

(5) The provisions of this section shall supersede all statutes, charter provisions, ordinances, resolutions, regulations, and requirements promulgated by the state or any subdivision thereof,

including any provision of any county charter, insofar as they may be in conflict with the provisions of this section.

Passed the House February 11, 1974.
Passed the Senate February 7, 1974.
Approved by the Governor February 16, 1974, with the exception of certain items which are vetoed.
Filed in Office of Secretary of State February 26, 1974.
Note: Governor's explanation of partial veto is as follows:
"I am returning herewith without my approval as to certain items House Bill No. 474 entitled:

"AN ACT Relating to public employees."

Veto
Message

House Bill No. 474 makes various changes to RCW 41.06.250 relating to political activities of public employees and political solicitations on public property.

One amendatory item in section 1 of RCW 41.06.250 would ease the present restriction of the law against all persons from soliciting on state property by confining the restriction to only elected officials or employees of the state and its political subdivisions. The consequences of this change would seem to be highly questionable and potentially disruptive. Thus, the door would be open to political solicitation not only by representatives of elected officials but also by any number of party or campaign officials and workers. For these reasons, I have determined to veto that item.

A second item in the same section broadens the restriction against solicitations on public property to include contributions for any political purposes. The existing language restricts only contributions for partisan political purposes. I believe this change is unnecessarily broad in its effect and rules out the opportunity for many public employees to contribute to issue-oriented political campaigns. Accordingly, I have vetoed the referenced item. With the foregoing exceptions, the remainder of House Bill No. 474 is approved."

CHAPTER 137

[Second Substitute House Bill No. 637]

FOREST PRACTICES ACT OF 1974

AN ACT Relating to forest practices; defining crimes; adding a new chapter to Title 76 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 90.48 RCW; repealing section 2, chapter 193, Laws of 1945, section 1, chapter 218, Laws of 1947, section 1, chapter 44, Laws of 1953, section 1, chapter 79, Laws of 1957, section 10, chapter 207, Laws of 1971 ex. sess. and RCW 76.08.010; repealing section 1, chapter 193, Laws of 1945 and RCW 76.08.020; repealing section 3, chapter 193, Laws of 1945, section 2, chapter 218, Laws of 1947, section 1, chapter 115, Laws of 1955 and RCW 76.08.030; repealing section 4, chapter 193, Laws of 1945, section 3, chapter 218, Laws of 1947, section 2, chapter 79, Laws of 1957 and RCW 76.08.040; repealing section 5, chapter 193, Laws of 1945, section 4, chapter 218, Laws of 1947, section 3, chapter 79, Laws of 1957, section 11, chapter