

Chapter 41.06 RCW
STATE CIVIL SERVICE LAW

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RCW 41.06.010 Declaration of purpose. The general purpose of this chapter is to establish for the state a system of personnel administration based on merit principles and scientific methods governing the appointment, promotion, transfer, layoff, recruitment, retention, classification and pay plan, removal, discipline, training and career development, and welfare of its civil employees, and other incidents of state employment. All appointments and promotions to positions, and retention therein, in the state service, shall be made

on the basis of policies hereinafter specified. [1980 c 118 s 1; 1961 c 1 s 1 (Initiative Measure No. 207, approved November 8, 1960).]

Severability—1980 c 118: "If any provision of this 1980 act, or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act, or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected." [1980 c 118 s 10.]

RCW 41.06.020 Definitions. Unless the context clearly indicates otherwise, the words used in this chapter have the meaning given in this section.

(1) "Affirmative action" means a procedure by which racial minorities, women, persons in the protected age category, persons with disabilities, Vietnam-era veterans, and disabled veterans are provided with increased employment opportunities. It shall not mean any sort of quota system.

(2) "Agency" means an office, department, board, commission, or other separate unit or division, however designated, of the state government and all personnel thereof; it includes any unit of state government established by law, the executive officer or members of which are either elected or appointed, upon which the statutes confer powers and impose duties in connection with operations of either a governmental or proprietary nature. "Agency" does not include a comprehensive cancer center participating in a collaborative arrangement as defined in RCW 28B.10.930 that is operated in conformance with RCW 28B.10.930.

(3) "Board" means the Washington personnel resources board established under the provisions of RCW 41.06.110, except that this definition does not apply to the words "board" or "boards" when used in RCW 41.06.070.

(4) "Career development" means the progressive development of employee capabilities to facilitate productivity, job satisfaction, and upward mobility through work assignments as well as education and training that are both state-sponsored and are achieved by individual employee efforts, all of which shall be consistent with the needs and obligations of the state and its agencies.

(5) "Classified service" means all positions in the state service subject to the provisions of this chapter.

(6) "Comparable worth" means the provision of similar salaries for positions that require or impose similar responsibilities, judgments, knowledge, skills, and working conditions.

(7) "Competitive service" means all positions in the classified service for which a competitive examination is required as a condition precedent to appointment.

(8) "Department" means an agency of government that has as its governing officer a person, or combination of persons such as a commission, board, or council, by law empowered to operate the agency responsible either to (a) no other public officer or (b) the governor.

(9) "Director" means the director of financial management or the director's designee.

(10) "Institutions of higher education" means the University of Washington, Washington State University, Central Washington University, Eastern Washington University, Western Washington University, The Evergreen State College, and the various state community colleges.

(11) "Noncompetitive service" means all positions in the classified service for which a competitive examination is not required.

(12) "Related boards" means the state board for community and technical colleges; and such other boards, councils, and commissions related to higher education as may be established.

(13) "Training" means activities designed to develop job-related knowledge and skills of employees. [2022 c 71 s 13; 2015 3rd sp.s. c 1 s 314. Prior: 2011 1st sp.s. c 43 s 401; 1993 c 281 s 19; prior: 1985 c 461 s 1; 1985 c 365 s 3; 1983 1st ex.s. c 75 s 4; 1982 1st ex.s. c 53 s 1; 1980 c 118 s 2; 1970 ex.s. c 12 s 1; prior: 1969 ex.s. c 36 s 21; 1969 c 45 s 6; 1967 ex.s. c 8 s 48; 1961 c 1 s 2 (Initiative Measure No. 207, approved November 8, 1960).]

Findings—Intent—2022 c 71: See note following RCW 28B.10.930.

Effective date—Purpose—2011 1st sp.s. c 43: See notes following RCW 43.19.003.

Effective date—1993 c 281: See note following RCW 41.06.022.

Severability—1985 c 461: "If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected." [1985 c 461 s 17.]

Severability—1982 1st ex.s. c 53: "If any provision of this amendatory act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected." [1982 1st ex.s. c 53 s 32.]

Severability—1980 c 118: See note following RCW 41.06.010.

RCW 41.06.022 "Manager"—Definition. For purposes of this chapter, "manager" means any employee who:

(1) Formulates statewide policy or directs the work of an agency or agency subdivision;

(2) Is responsible to administer one or more statewide policies or programs of an agency or agency subdivision;

(3) Manages, administers, and controls a local branch office of an agency or agency subdivision, including the physical, financial, or personnel resources;

(4) Has substantial responsibility in personnel administration, legislative relations, public information, or the preparation and administration of budgets; or

(5) Functionally is above the first level of supervision and exercises authority that is not merely routine or clerical in nature and requires the consistent use of independent judgment.

Members of the Washington management service may be included in a collective bargaining unit established under chapter 41.80 RCW, except as provided in RCW 41.80.430. [2023 c 136 s 1; 2002 c 354 s 207; 1993 c 281 s 8.]

Effective date—2023 c 136: See note following RCW 41.80.430.

Short title—2002 c 354: See RCW 41.80.907.

Effective date—1993 c 281: "Sections 1 through 66 and 68 through 71 of this act are necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and shall take effect July 1, 1993." [1993 c 281 s 74.]

RCW 41.06.040 Scope of chapter. The provisions of this chapter apply to:

(1) Each board, commission or other multimember body, including, but not limited to, those consisting in whole or in part of elective officers;

(2) Each agency, and each employee and position therein, not expressly excluded or exempted under the provisions of RCW 41.06.070 or otherwise excluded or exempted in this chapter. [2021 c 323 s 25; 1969 ex.s. c 36 s 22; 1961 c 1 s 4 (Initiative Measure No. 207, approved November 8, 1960).]

RCW 41.06.070 Exemptions to chapter—Right of reversion. (1) The provisions of this chapter do not apply to:

(a) The members of the legislature or to any employee of, or position in, the legislative branch of the state government including members, officers, and employees of the legislative council, joint legislative audit and review committee, statute law committee, and any interim committee of the legislature;

(b) The justices of the supreme court, judges of the court of appeals, judges of the superior courts or of the inferior courts, or to any employee of, or position in the judicial branch of state government;

(c) Officers, academic personnel, and employees of technical colleges;

(d) The officers of the Washington state patrol;

(e) Elective officers of the state;

(f) The chief executive officer of each agency;

(g) In the departments of employment security and social and health services, the director and the director's confidential secretary; in all other departments, the executive head of which is an individual appointed by the governor, the director, his or her confidential secretary, and his or her statutory assistant directors;

(h) In the case of a multimember board, commission, or committee, whether the members thereof are elected, appointed by the governor or other authority, serve ex officio, or are otherwise chosen:

(i) All members of such boards, commissions, or committees;

(ii) If the members of the board, commission, or committee serve on a part-time basis and there is a statutory executive officer: The secretary of the board, commission, or committee; the chief executive officer of the board, commission, or committee; and the confidential secretary of the chief executive officer of the board, commission, or committee;

(iii) If the members of the board, commission, or committee serve on a full-time basis: The chief executive officer or administrative officer as designated by the board, commission, or committee; and a

confidential secretary to the chair of the board, commission, or committee;

(iv) If all members of the board, commission, or committee serve ex officio: The chief executive officer; and the confidential secretary of such chief executive officer;

(i) The confidential secretaries and administrative assistants in the immediate offices of the elective officers of the state;

(j) Assistant attorneys general;

(k) Commissioned and enlisted personnel in the military service of the state;

(l) Inmate, student, and temporary employees, and part-time professional consultants, as defined by the director;

(m) Officers and employees of the Washington state fruit commission;

(n) Officers and employees of the Washington apple commission;

(o) Officers and employees of the Washington state dairy products commission;

(p) Officers and employees of the Washington tree fruit research commission;

(q) Officers and employees of the Washington state beef commission;

(r) Officers and employees of the Washington grain commission;

(s) Officers and employees of any commission formed under chapter 15.66 RCW;

(t) Officers and employees of agricultural commissions formed under chapter 15.65 RCW;

(u) Executive assistants for personnel administration and labor relations in all state agencies employing such executive assistants including but not limited to all departments, offices, commissions, committees, boards, or other bodies subject to the provisions of this chapter and this subsection shall prevail over any provision of law inconsistent herewith unless specific exception is made in such law;

(v) In each agency with fifty or more employees: Deputy agency heads, assistant directors or division directors, and not more than three principal policy assistants who report directly to the agency head or deputy agency heads;

(w) Staff employed by the department of commerce to administer energy policy functions;

(x) The manager of the energy facility site evaluation council;

(y) A maximum of ten staff employed by the department of commerce to administer innovation and policy functions, including the three principal policy assistants exempted under (v) of this subsection;

(z) Staff employed by Washington State University to administer energy education, applied research, and technology transfer programs under RCW 43.21F.045 as provided in RCW 28B.30.900(5);

(aa) Officers and employees of Washington technology solutions created in RCW 43.105.006 that perform the following functions or duties: Systems integration; data center engineering and management; network systems engineering and management; information technology contracting; information technology customer relations management; and network and systems security;

(bb) The executive director of the Washington statewide reentry council.

(2) The following classifications, positions, and employees of institutions of higher education and related boards are hereby exempted from coverage of this chapter:

(a) Members of the governing board of each institution of higher education and related boards, all presidents, vice presidents, and their confidential secretaries, administrative, and personal assistants; deans, directors, and chairs; academic personnel; and executive heads of major administrative or academic divisions employed by institutions of higher education; principal assistants to executive heads of major administrative or academic divisions; other managerial or professional employees in an institution or related board having substantial responsibility for directing or controlling program operations and accountable for allocation of resources and program results, or for the formulation of institutional policy, or for carrying out personnel administration or labor relations functions, legislative relations, public information, development, senior computer systems and network programming, or internal audits and investigations; and any employee of a community college district whose place of work is one which is physically located outside the state of Washington and who is employed pursuant to RCW 28B.50.092 and assigned to an educational program operating outside of the state of Washington;

(b) The governing board of each institution, and related boards, may also exempt from this chapter classifications involving research activities, counseling of students, extension or continuing education activities, graphic arts or publications activities requiring prescribed academic preparation or special training as determined by the board: PROVIDED, That no nonacademic employee engaged in office, clerical, maintenance, or food and trade services may be exempted by the board under this provision;

(c) Printing craft employees in the department of printing at the University of Washington.

(3) In addition to the exemptions specifically provided by this chapter, the director may provide for further exemptions pursuant to the following procedures. The governor or other appropriate elected official may submit requests for exemption to the office of financial management stating the reasons for requesting such exemptions. The director shall hold a public hearing, after proper notice, on requests submitted pursuant to this subsection. If the director determines that the position for which exemption is requested is one involving substantial responsibility for the formulation of basic agency or executive policy or one involving directing and controlling program operations of an agency or a major administrative division thereof, or is a senior expert in enterprise information technology infrastructure, engineering, or systems, the director shall grant the request. The total number of additional exemptions permitted under this subsection shall not exceed one percent of the number of employees in the classified service not including employees of institutions of higher education and related boards for those agencies not directly under the authority of any elected public official other than the governor, and shall not exceed a total of twenty-five for all agencies under the authority of elected public officials other than the governor.

(4) The salary and fringe benefits of all positions presently or hereafter exempted except for the chief executive officer of each agency, full-time members of boards and commissions, administrative assistants and confidential secretaries in the immediate office of an elected state official, and the personnel listed in subsections (1)(j) through (t) and (2) of this section, shall be determined by the director. Changes to the classification plan affecting exempt salaries

must meet the same provisions for classified salary increases resulting from adjustments to the classification plan as outlined in RCW 41.06.152.

(5) (a) Any person holding a classified position subject to the provisions of this chapter shall, when and if such position is subsequently exempted from the application of this chapter, be afforded the following rights: If such person previously held permanent status in another classified position, such person shall have a right of reversion to the highest class of position previously held, or to a position of similar nature and salary.

(b) Any classified employee having civil service status in a classified position who accepts an appointment in an exempt position shall have the right of reversion to the highest class of position previously held, or to a position of similar nature and salary.

(c) A person occupying an exempt position who is terminated from the position for gross misconduct or malfeasance does not have the right of reversion to a classified position as provided for in this section.

(6) (a) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (5) of this section, a person cannot exercise the right of reversion to a classified position if the employee has been given written notice that they are the subject of an active workplace investigation in which the allegations being investigated, if founded, could result in a finding of gross misconduct or malfeasance. The right of reversion is suspended during the pendency of the investigation. For the purposes of this subsection, written notice includes notice sent by email to the employee's work email address.

(b) The office of financial management must adopt rules implementing this section. [2024 c 54 s 35; 2023 c 148 s 3; 2019 c 146 s 3; 2018 c 246 s 1; 2016 c 188 s 11. Prior: 2011 1st sp.s. c 43 s 1010; 2011 1st sp.s. c 39 s 4; 2011 1st sp.s. c 16 s 22; prior: 2010 c 271 s 801; 2010 c 2 s 2; 2010 c 1 s 1; prior: 2009 c 33 s 36; 2009 c 5 s 1; 2002 c 354 s 209; 1998 c 245 s 40; prior: 1996 c 319 s 3; 1996 c 288 s 33; 1996 c 186 s 109; 1995 c 163 s 1; 1994 c 264 s 13; prior: 1993 sp.s. c 2 s 15; 1993 c 379 s 306; 1993 c 281 s 21; 1990 c 60 s 101; 1989 c 96 s 8; 1987 c 389 s 2; 1985 c 221 s 1; 1984 c 210 s 2; 1983 c 15 s 21; 1982 1st ex.s. c 53 s 2; 1981 c 225 s 2; 1980 c 87 s 14; 1973 1st ex.s. c 133 s 1; 1972 ex.s. c 11 s 1; prior: 1971 ex.s. c 209 s 1; 1971 ex.s. c 59 s 1; 1971 c 81 s 100; 1969 ex.s. c 36 s 23; 1967 ex.s. c 8 s 47; 1961 c 179 s 1; 1961 c 1 s 7 (Initiative Measure No. 207, approved November 8, 1960).]

Effective date—Purpose—2011 1st sp.s. c 43: See notes following RCW 43.19.003.

Effective date—2011 1st sp.s. c 39: See note following RCW 41.04.820.

Effective date—2011 1st sp.s. c 16 ss 16-25: See note following RCW 41.58.060.

Transfer of powers, duties, and functions—2011 1st sp.s. c 16: See note following RCW 41.58.060.

Purpose—Effective date—2010 c 271: See notes following RCW 43.330.005.

Findings—2010 c 2: "The legislature finds that the current economic crisis is requiring sacrifices by citizens and businesses all across the state. The legislature acknowledges the sacrifices also being made by the many state employees who have volunteered for unpaid furlough days including those, such as our ferry workers, who volunteered for pay freezes. The recession requires us to continue to find every possible cost savings while striving to continue to deliver key services to our citizens. Therefore, the legislature finds it necessary to immediately suspend recognition awards given to state employees. Until the economic climate permits the resumption of appropriate cash awards, the legislature encourages supervisors throughout state agencies to look for nonmonetary ways to acknowledge outstanding contributions to Washington's citizens by our state's civil servants." [2010 c 2 s 1.]

Effective date—2010 c 2: "This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect immediately [February 15, 2010]." [2010 c 2 s 7.]

Effective date—2010 c 1: "This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect immediately [February 15, 2010]." [2010 c 1 s 9.]

Effective date—2009 c 5: "This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect immediately [February 18, 2009]." [2009 c 5 s 13.]

Short title—2002 c 354: See RCW 41.80.907.

Findings—Intent—Part headings not law—Effective date—1996 c 186: See notes following RCW 43.330.904.

Effective date—1995 c 163: "This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and shall take effect immediately [May 1, 1995]." [1995 c 163 s 2.]

Effective date—1993 sp.s. c 2 ss 1-6, 8-59, and 61-79: See RCW 43.300.900.

Intent—Severability—Effective date—1993 c 379: See notes following RCW 28B.10.029.

Effective date—1993 c 281: See note following RCW 41.06.022.

Severability—1990 c 60: "If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected." [1990 c 60 s 403.]

Subheadings not law—1990 c 60: "Subheadings as used in this act do not constitute any part of the law." [1990 c 60 s 401.]

Severability—1987 c 389: "If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected." [1987 c 389 s 8.]

Effective date—1987 c 389: "This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, and safety, the support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and shall take effect June 30, 1987." [1987 c 389 s 9.]

Savings—Severability—1984 c 210: See notes following RCW 43.01.045.

Severability—1982 1st ex.s. c 53: See note following RCW 41.06.020.

County road administration board: RCW 36.78.060.

State agencies and departments—Certain personnel exempted from chapter basic health plan: RCW 70.47.040.

board of health: RCW 43.20.030.

caseload forecast supervisor and staff: RCW 41.06.087.

center for volunteerism and citizen service: RCW 43.150.040.

Columbia River Gorge commission: RCW 43.97.015.

commission on judicial conduct: RCW 2.64.050.

department of

agriculture: RCW 41.06.084.

corrections: RCW 41.06.071.

ecology: RCW 41.06.073, 43.21A.100.

enterprise services, supervisor of motor transport: RCW 43.19.585.

health: RCW 43.70.020.

retirement systems: RCW 41.50.070.

services for the blind: RCW 74.18.050.

social and health services: RCW 43.20A.090.

transportation: RCW 41.06.079, 47.01.081.

veterans affairs: RCW 41.06.077.

Washington technology solutions: RCW 41.06.094.

economic and revenue forecast supervisor and staff: RCW 41.06.087.

gambling commission: RCW 9.46.080.

law revision commission: RCW 41.06.083.

office of

administrative hearings: RCW 34.12.030.

financial management: RCW 41.06.075, 43.41.080.

minority and women's business enterprises: RCW 39.19.030.

state actuary: RCW 44.44.030.

state internship program: RCW 41.06.088.

state investment board: RCW 43.33A.100.

state lottery commission: RCW 67.70.050.

state school directors' association: RCW 41.06.086.

state treasurer: RCW 43.08.120.

state veterinarian: RCW 41.06.084.

superintendent of public instruction: RCW 28A.300.020.

Washington conservation corps: RCW 43.220.070.

Washington service corps: RCW 50.65.110.

*Washington state patrol, drug control assistance unit: RCW 43.43.640.
world fair commission: RCW 41.06.085.*

RCW 41.06.071 Department of corrections—Certain personnel exempted from chapter. In addition to the exemptions provided under RCW 41.06.070, the provisions of this chapter shall not apply in the department of corrections to the secretary, the secretary's personal secretary, the deputy secretaries and their personal secretaries, all assistant deputy secretaries and their personal secretaries, all regional administrators and program administrators, all facility superintendents and associate superintendents for facilities with a resident capacity of fifty or more, and all management and sales staff of correctional industries. [1999 c 122 s 1; 1989 c 185 s 1; 1983 c 175 s 1; 1981 c 136 s 28.]

Effective date—1981 c 136: See RCW 72.09.900.

RCW 41.06.072 Department of commerce—Certain personnel exempted from chapter. In addition to the exemptions set forth in this chapter, this chapter shall not apply within the department of commerce to the director, one confidential secretary, the deputy directors, all assistant directors, the state historic preservation officer, and up to two professional staff members within the emergency management program. [2023 c 470 s 2032; 1995 c 399 s 59; 1986 c 266 s 8.]

Explanatory statement—2023 c 470: See note following RCW 10.99.030.

Severability—1986 c 266: See note following RCW 38.52.005.

RCW 41.06.073 Department of ecology—Certain personnel exempted from chapter. In addition to the exemptions set forth in RCW 41.06.070, the provisions of this chapter shall not apply in the department of ecology to the director, his or her confidential secretary, his or her deputy director, and not to exceed six assistant directors. [2012 c 117 s 8; 1970 ex.s. c 62 s 11.]

Savings—Severability—Effective date—1970 ex.s. c 62: See notes following RCW 43.21A.010.

RCW 41.06.074 Department of health—Certain personnel exempted from chapter. In addition to the exemptions under RCW 41.06.070, the provisions of this chapter shall not apply in the department of health to any deputy secretary, assistant secretary, or person who administers the necessary divisions, offices, bureaus, and programs and five additional positions involved in policy or program direction. [1989 1st ex.s. c 9 s 813.]

Effective date—Severability—1989 1st ex.s. c 9: See RCW 43.70.910 and 43.70.920.

RCW 41.06.075 Office of financial management—Certain personnel exempted from chapter. In addition to the exemptions set forth in RCW 41.06.070, the provisions of this chapter shall not apply in the office of financial management to the director, his or her confidential secretary, not to exceed two deputy directors and not to exceed seven assistant directors. [2012 c 117 s 9; 1979 c 151 s 56; 1969 ex.s. c 239 s 7.]

Office of financial management: Chapter 43.41 RCW.

RCW 41.06.076 Department of social and health services—Certain personnel exempted from chapter. In addition to the exemptions set forth in RCW 41.06.070, the provisions of this chapter shall not apply in the department of social and health services to the secretary, the secretary's executive assistant, the chief of staff and deputy chief of staff, assistant secretaries, deputy assistant secretaries, senior directors, division directors, assistant and deputy division directors, regional administrators, district managers, and executive officers and superintendents of institutions, and executive assistants supporting the officers named in this section. [2025 c 73 s 1; 2011 1st sp.s. c 43 s 402; 1997 c 386 s 1; 1993 c 281 s 22; 1980 c 73 s 1; 1970 ex.s. c 18 s 8.]

Effective date—Purpose—2011 1st sp.s. c 43: See notes following RCW 43.19.003.

Effective date—1993 c 281: See note following RCW 41.06.022.

Effective date—Severability—1970 ex.s. c 18: See notes following RCW 43.20A.010.

RCW 41.06.077 Department of veterans affairs—Certain personnel exempted from chapter. In addition to the exemptions set forth in RCW 41.06.070, the provisions of this chapter shall not apply in the department of veterans affairs to the director, the deputy director, no more than two assistant directors, administrators and directors of nursing services at each state veterans' home, a confidential secretary for the deputy director, and a confidential secretary for each assistant director. [2023 c 327 s 1; 2001 c 84 s 1; 1975-'76 2nd ex.s. c 115 s 7.]

RCW 41.06.079 Department of transportation—Certain personnel exempted from chapter. In addition to the exemptions set forth in RCW 41.06.070, the provisions of this chapter shall not apply in the department of transportation to the secretary, a deputy secretary, an administrative assistant to the secretary, if any, one assistant secretary for each division designated pursuant to RCW 47.01.081, one confidential secretary for each of the above-named officers, up to six transportation district administrators and one confidential secretary for each district administrator, up to six additional new administrators or confidential secretaries designated by the secretary of the department of transportation and approved by the Washington personnel resources board pursuant to the provisions of RCW 41.06.070,

the legislative liaison for the department, the state construction engineer, the state aid engineer, the personnel manager, the state project development engineer, the state maintenance and operations engineer, one confidential secretary for each of the last-named five positions, and a confidential secretary for the public affairs administrator. The individuals appointed under this section shall be exempt from the provisions of the state civil service law, and shall be paid salaries to be fixed by the governor in accordance with the procedure established by law for the fixing of salaries for individuals exempt from the operation of the state civil service law. [2002 c 354 s 239; 1993 c 281 s 23; 1985 c 178 s 1; 1977 ex.s. c 151 s 13.]

Short title—2002 c 354: See RCW 41.80.907.

Effective date—1993 c 281: See note following RCW 41.06.022.

Exempt positions filled pending permanent appointment—1977 ex.s. c 151: "If on September 21, 1977, any exempt position designated hereinabove has not been filled by appointment, the person serving in the comparable exempt position, if any, in an agency whose functions are by *section 3 of this 1977 amendatory act transferred to the department of transportation shall fill such exempt position until a permanent appointment thereto has been made." [1977 ex.s. c 151 s 14.]

***Reviser's note:** "section 3 of this 1977 amendatory act" is codified as RCW 47.01.031.

Federal requirements—1977 ex.s. c 151: See RCW 47.98.070.

RCW 41.06.080 Human resource services available on request to certain governmental entities—Reimbursement. Notwithstanding the provisions of this chapter, the office of financial management and the department of enterprise services may make their human resource services available on request, on a reimbursable basis, to:

- (1) Either the legislative or the judicial branch of the state government;
 - (2) Any county, city, town, or other municipal subdivision of the state;
 - (3) The institutions of higher learning;
 - (4) Any agency, class, or position set forth in RCW 41.06.070.
- [2011 1st sp.s. c 43 s 403; 1970 ex.s. c 12 s 2. Prior: 1969 ex.s. c 152 s 2; 1969 c 45 s 5; 1961 c 1 s 8 (Initiative Measure No. 207, approved November 8, 1960).]

Effective date—Purpose—2011 1st sp.s. c 43: See notes following RCW 43.19.003.

RCW 41.06.082 Office of minority and women's business enterprises—Certain personnel exempted from chapter. In addition to the exemptions set forth in RCW 41.06.070, this chapter shall not apply in the office of minority and women's business enterprises to the director, the director's confidential secretary, and the deputy director. [1983 c 120 s 14.]

Effective date—Applicability—Severability—Conflict with federal requirements—1983 c 120: See RCW 39.19.910, 39.19.920.

RCW 41.06.083 Law revision commission—Personnel exempted from chapter. The provisions of this chapter do not apply to any position in or employee of the Washington law revision commission. [1982 c 183 s 10.]

RCW 41.06.084 Department of agriculture—Certain personnel exempted from chapter. In addition to the exemptions set forth in RCW 41.06.070, the provisions of this chapter shall not apply in the department of agriculture to the director, the director's confidential secretary, the deputy director, not more than eight assistant directors, the state veterinarian, and the milk pooling administrator employed under RCW 15.35.100. [1992 c 58 s 3; 1990 c 37 s 2; 1983 c 248 s 11.]

RCW 41.06.085 World fair commission—Certain personnel exempted from chapter. In addition to the exemptions set forth in RCW 41.06.070, the provisions of this chapter shall not apply to the executive director and one confidential secretary of the world fair commission created in chapter 177, Laws of 1983. [1983 c 177 s 6.]

RCW 41.06.086 Washington state school directors' association—Certain personnel exempted from chapter. In addition to the exemptions set forth in RCW 41.06.070, the provisions of this chapter shall not apply to officers and employees of the Washington state school directors' association. [1983 c 187 s 5.]

Effective date—1983 c 187: See RCW 28A.345.902.

RCW 41.06.087 Economic and revenue forecast supervisor and staff—Caseload forecast supervisor and staff—Exempted from chapter. In addition to the exemptions set forth in RCW 41.06.070, this chapter does not apply to the economic and revenue forecast supervisor and staff employed under RCW 82.33.010 or the caseload forecast supervisor and staff employed under RCW 43.88C.010. [1997 c 168 s 4; 1990 c 229 s 3; 1984 c 138 s 2.]

Effective date—1997 c 168: See RCW 43.88C.900.

Effective date—1990 c 229: "This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and shall take effect July 1, 1990." [1990 c 229 s 12.]

RCW 41.06.088 State internship program—Positions exempt from chapter. This chapter does not apply to positions under the state internship program established under RCW 43.06.410. [1985 c 442 s 8.]

Construction—Severability—1985 c 442: See notes following RCW 43.06.410.

RCW 41.06.093 Washington state patrol—Certain personnel exempted from chapter. In addition to the exemptions set forth in RCW 41.06.070, the provisions of this chapter shall not apply in the Washington state patrol to confidential secretaries of agency bureau chiefs, or their functional equivalent, and a confidential secretary for the chief of staff. [2011 1st sp.s. c 43 s 404; 1993 c 281 s 24; 1990 c 14 s 1.]

Effective date—Purpose—2011 1st sp.s. c 43: See notes following RCW 43.19.003.

Effective date—1993 c 281: See note following RCW 41.06.022.

RCW 41.06.094 Washington technology solutions—Certain personnel exempted from chapter. In addition to the exemptions under RCW 41.06.070, the provisions of this chapter shall not apply in Washington technology solutions to the chief information officer, the chief information officer's confidential secretary, and assistant directors, and up to twelve positions in the planning component involved in policy development and/or senior professionals. [2024 c 54 s 36; 2015 c 225 s 54; 1987 c 504 s 7.]

RCW 41.06.095 Office of archaeology and historic preservation—Certain personnel exempted from chapter. In addition to the exemptions under RCW 41.06.070, this chapter does not apply in the department of archaeology and historic preservation to the director, the director's personal secretary, the deputy director, all division directors and assistant directors, and one confidential secretary for each of these officers. [2005 c 333 s 9.]

RCW 41.06.096 Life sciences discovery fund authority—Personnel exempted from chapter. In addition to the exemptions set forth in RCW 41.06.070, this chapter does not apply to employees of the life sciences discovery fund authority under *chapter 43.350 RCW. [2005 c 424 s 14.]

***Reviser's note:** Chapter 43.350 RCW was repealed and/or recodified by 2019 c 83 ss 5 and 6.

RCW 41.06.097 Department of children, youth, and families—Certain personnel exempted from chapter. In addition to the exemptions under RCW 41.06.070, the provisions of this chapter shall not apply in the department of children, youth, and families to the secretary, the secretary's personal secretary, and any other exempt staff members provided for in RCW 43.216.025(2). [2018 c 58 s 6; 2006 c 265 s 110.]

Effective date—2018 c 58: See note following RCW 28A.655.080.

Effective date—2006 c 265: See RCW 43.216.902.

RCW 41.06.0971 Department of children, youth, and families—Certain personnel exempted from chapter. In addition to the exemptions under RCW 41.06.070, this chapter does not apply in the department of children, youth, and families to the secretary; the secretary's confidential secretary; deputy, assistant, and regional secretaries, one confidential secretary for each of the aforesaid officers; and any other exempt staff members provided for in chapter 6, Laws of 2017 3rd sp. sess. [2017 3rd sp.s. c 6 s 105.]

Effective date—2017 3rd sp.s. c 6 ss 102, 104-115, 201-227, 301-337, 401-419, 501-513, 801-803, and 805-822: See note following RCW 43.216.025.

Conflict with federal requirements—2017 3rd sp.s. c 6: See RCW 43.216.908.

RCW 41.06.098 Puget Sound partnership—Certain personnel exempted from chapter. In addition to the exemptions under RCW 41.06.070, the provisions of this chapter shall not apply in the Puget Sound partnership to the executive director, to one confidential secretary, and to all professional staff. [2007 c 341 s 45.]

Effective date—2007 c 341: See RCW 90.71.907.

RCW 41.06.099 Department of enterprise services—Certain personnel exempted from chapter. In addition to the exemptions under RCW 41.06.070, this chapter does not apply in the department of enterprise services to the director, the director's confidential secretary, deputy and assistant directors, and any other exempt staff members provided for in RCW 43.19.008. [2011 1st sp.s. c 43 s 106.]

Effective date—Purpose—2011 1st sp.s. c 43: See notes following RCW 43.19.003.

RCW 41.06.102 Criminal justice training commission—Certain personnel exempted from chapter. In addition to the exemptions set forth in RCW 41.06.070, the provisions of this chapter do not apply in the Washington state criminal justice training commission to two confidential secretaries involved in managing the confidential records under RCW 43.101.135 and 43.101.400. [2021 c 323 s 26.]

RCW 41.06.103 Office of independent investigations—Certain personnel exempted from chapter. In addition to the exemptions set forth in RCW 41.06.070, the provisions of this chapter do not apply in the office of independent investigations to the director, to one confidential secretary, and to any deputy or regional directors, if any. [2021 c 318 s 312.]

Finding—Intent—2021 c 318: See note following RCW 43.102.020.

RCW 41.06.110 Washington personnel resources board—Created—Term—Qualifications, conditions—Compensation, travel expenses—Officers, quorum, records. (1) There is hereby created a Washington personnel resources board composed of three members appointed by the governor, subject to confirmation by the senate. The members of the personnel board serving June 30, 1993, shall be the members of the Washington personnel resources board, and they shall complete their terms as under the personnel board. Each odd-numbered year thereafter the governor shall appoint a member for a six-year term. Each member shall continue to hold office after the expiration of the member's term until a successor has been appointed. Persons so appointed shall have clearly demonstrated an interest and belief in the merit principle, shall not hold any other employment with the state, shall not have been an officer of a political party for a period of one year immediately prior to such appointment, and shall not be or become a candidate for partisan elective public office during the term to which they are appointed;

(2) Each member of the board shall be compensated in accordance with RCW 43.03.250. The members of the board may receive any number of daily payments for official meetings of the board actually attended. Members of the board shall also be reimbursed for travel expenses incurred in the discharge of their official duties in accordance with RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060.

(3) At its first meeting following the appointment of all of its members, and annually thereafter, the board shall elect a chair and vice chair from among its members to serve one year. The presence of at least two members of the board shall constitute a quorum to transact business. A written public record shall be kept by the board of all actions of the board. The director shall serve as secretary.

(4) The board may appoint and compensate hearing officers to hear and conduct appeals. Such compensation shall be paid on a contractual basis for each hearing, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 43.88 RCW and rules adopted pursuant thereto, as they relate to personal service contracts. [2011 1st sp.s. c 43 s 405; 2002 c 354 s 210; 1993 c 281 s 25; 1984 c 287 s 69; 1982 c 10 s 8. Prior: 1981 c 338 s 20; 1981 c 311 s 16; 1977 c 6 s 2; prior: 1975-'76 2nd ex.s. c 43 s 1; 1975-'76 2nd ex.s. c 34 s 86; 1961 c 1 s 11 (Initiative Measure No. 207, approved November 8, 1960).]

Effective date—Purpose—2011 1st sp.s. c 43: See notes following RCW 43.19.003.

Short title—2002 c 354: See RCW 41.80.907.

Effective date—1993 c 281: See note following RCW 41.06.022.

Legislative findings—Severability—Effective date—1984 c 287: See notes following RCW 43.03.220.

Severability—1982 c 10: See note following RCW 6.13.080.

Effective date—Severability—1975-'76 2nd ex.s. c 34: See notes following RCW 2.08.115.

Adoption of rules for leave sharing program: RCW 41.04.670.

RCW 41.06.120 Meetings of board—Hearings authorized, notice—Majority to approve release of findings—Administration of oaths. (1)

In the necessary conduct of its work, the board shall meet monthly unless there is no pending business requiring board action and may hold hearings, such hearings to be called by (a) the chair of the board, or (b) a majority of the members of the board. An official notice of the calling of the hearing shall be filed with the secretary, and all members shall be notified of the hearing within a reasonable period of time prior to its convening.

(2) No release of material or statement of findings shall be made except with the approval of a majority of the board.

(3) In the conduct of hearings or investigations, a member of the board or the director, or the hearing officer, may administer oaths. [2012 c 117 s 10; 2011 1st sp.s. c 43 s 406; 1981 c 311 s 17; 1975-'76 2nd ex.s. c 43 s 2; 1961 c 1 s 12 (Initiative Measure No. 207, approved November 8, 1960).]

Effective date—Purpose—2011 1st sp.s. c 43: See notes following RCW 43.19.003.

RCW 41.06.133 Rules of director—Personnel administration. (1)

The director shall adopt rules, consistent with the purposes and provisions of this chapter and with the best standards of personnel administration, regarding the basis and procedures to be followed for:

(a) The reduction, dismissal, suspension, or demotion of an employee;

(b) Training and career development;

(c) Probationary periods of six to twelve months and rejections of probationary employees, depending on the job requirements of the class, except as follows:

(i) Entry-level state park rangers shall serve a probationary period of twelve months; and

(ii) The probationary period of campus police officer appointees who are required to attend the Washington state criminal justice training commission basic law enforcement academy shall extend from the date of appointment until twelve months from the date of successful completion of the basic law enforcement academy, or twelve months from the date of appointment if academy training is not required. The director shall adopt rules to ensure that employees promoting to campus police officer who are required to attend the Washington state criminal justice training commission basic law enforcement academy shall have the trial service period extend from the date of appointment until twelve months from the date of successful completion of the basic law enforcement academy, or twelve months from the date of appointment if academy training is not required;

(d) Transfers;

(e) Promotional preferences;

(f) Sick leaves and vacations;

(g) Hours of work;

(h) Layoffs when necessary and subsequent reemployment, except for the financial basis for layoffs;

(i) The number of names to be certified for vacancies;

(j) Subject to RCW 41.04.820, adoption and revision of a state salary schedule to reflect the prevailing rates in Washington state private industries and other governmental units;

(k) Increment increases within the series of steps for each pay grade based on length of service for all employees whose standards of performance are such as to permit them to retain job status in the classified service;

(l) Optional lump sum relocation compensation approved by the agency director, whenever it is reasonably necessary that a person make a domiciliary move in accepting a transfer or other employment with the state. An agency must provide lump sum compensation within existing resources. If the person receiving the relocation payment terminates or causes termination with the state, for reasons other than layoff, disability separation, or other good cause as determined by an agency director, within one year of the date of the employment, the state is entitled to reimbursement of the lump sum compensation from the person;

(m) Providing for veteran's preference as required by existing statutes, with recognition of preference in regard to layoffs and subsequent reemployment for veterans and their surviving spouses by giving such eligible veterans and their surviving spouses additional credit in computing their seniority by adding to their unbroken state service, as defined by the director, the veteran's service in the military not to exceed five years. For the purposes of this section, "veteran" means any person who has one or more years of active military service in any branch of the armed forces of the United States or who has less than one year's service and is discharged with a disability incurred in the line of duty or is discharged at the convenience of the government and who, upon termination of such service, has received a qualifying discharge as defined in RCW 73.04.005. However, the surviving spouse of a veteran is entitled to the benefits of this section regardless of the veteran's length of active military service. For the purposes of this section, "veteran" does not include any person who has voluntarily retired with twenty or more years of active military service and whose military retirement pay is in excess of five hundred dollars per month.

(2) Rules adopted under this section by the director shall provide for local administration and management by the institutions of higher education and related boards, subject to periodic audit and review by the director.

(3) Rules adopted by the director under this section may be superseded by the provisions of a collective bargaining agreement negotiated under RCW 41.80.001 and 41.80.010 through 41.80.130. The supersession of such rules shall only affect employees in the respective collective bargaining units. [2024 c 146 s 15; 2023 c 148 s 1. Prior: 2011 1st sp.s. c 43 s 407; 2011 1st sp.s. c 39 s 5; prior: 2010 c 2 s 3; 2010 c 1 s 2; prior: 2009 c 534 s 2; 2009 c 5 s 2; 2002 c 354 s 204.]

Intent—2024 c 146: See note following RCW 73.04.005.

Effective date—Purpose—2011 1st sp.s. c 43: See notes following RCW 43.19.003.

Effective date—2011 1st sp.s. c 39: See note following RCW 41.04.820.

Findings—Effective date—2010 c 2: See notes following RCW 41.06.070.

Effective date—2010 c 1: See note following RCW 41.06.070.

Finding—Intent—2009 c 534: "The legislature finds that information technologies have substantially altered the roles and responsibilities of employees in many state agencies since the creation of the Washington management service. With the understanding that the current economic crisis dictates finding every possible efficiency, the legislature intends to review the state's senior management and exempt services and understands that possible refinements in the service are needed. A review, in consultation with the various stakeholders and in light of current best practices, is warranted." [2009 c 534 s 1.]

Effective date—2009 c 5: See note following RCW 41.06.070.

Short title—Headings, captions not law—Severability—Effective dates—2002 c 354: See RCW 41.80.907 through 41.80.910.

RCW 41.06.142 Contracting for services—Effect on employees in the classified service—Criteria to be met—Website posting—Contract file report—Requirements of agreements—Effectiveness beyond agreement expiration date—Violation of RCW 49.60.030—Competitive contracting—Definitions. (1) If any department, agency, or institution of higher education intends to contract for services that, on or after July 1, 2005, have been customarily and historically provided by, and would displace or relocate, employees in the classified service under this chapter, a department, agency, or institution of higher education may do so by contracting with individuals, nonprofit organizations, businesses, employee business units, or other entities if the following criteria are met:

(a) A comprehensive impact assessment is completed by the agency, department, or institution of higher education to assist it in determining whether the decision to contract out is beneficial.

(i) The comprehensive impact assessment must include at a minimum the following analysis:

(A) An estimate of the cost of performance of the service by employees, including the fully allocated costs of the service, the cost of the employees' salaries and benefits, space, equipment, materials, and other costs necessary to perform the function. The estimate must not include the state's indirect overhead costs unless those costs can be attributed directly to the function in question and would not exist if that function were not performed in state service;

(B) An estimate of the cost of performance of the services if contracted out, including the cost of administration of the program and allocating sufficient employee staff time and resources to monitor the contract and ensure its proper performance by the contractor;

(C) The reason for proposing to contract out, including the objective the agency would like to achieve; and

(D) The reasons for the determination made under (e) of this subsection.

(ii) When the contract will result in termination of state employees or elimination of state positions, the comprehensive impact assessment may also include an assessment of the potential adverse impacts on the public from outsourcing the contract, such as loss of employment, effect on social services and public assistance programs, economic impacts on local businesses and local tax revenues, and environmental impacts;

(b) The invitation for bid or request for proposal contains measurable standards for the performance of the contract;

(c) Employees whose positions or work would be displaced by the contract are provided an opportunity to offer alternatives to purchasing services by contract and, if these alternatives are not accepted, compete for the contract under competitive contracting procedures in subsection (7) of this section;

(d) The department, agency, or institution of higher education has established a contract monitoring process to measure contract performance, costs, service delivery quality, and other contract standards, and to cancel contracts that do not meet those standards; and

(e) The department, agency, or institution of higher education has determined that the contract results in savings or efficiency improvements. The contracting agency, department, or institution of higher education must consider the consequences and potential mitigation of improper or failed performance by the contractor.

(2)(a) The agency, department, or institution of higher education must post on its website the request for proposal, the contract or a statement that the agency, department, or institution of higher education did not move forward with contracting out, and the comprehensive impact assessment pursuant to subsection (1) of this section.

(b) The agency, department, or institution of higher education must maintain the information in (a) of this subsection in its files in accordance with the record retention schedule under RCW 40.14.060.

(3) Every five years or upon completion of the contract, whichever comes first, the agency, department, or institution of higher education must prepare and maintain in the contract file a report, which must include at a minimum the following information:

(a) Documentation of the contractor's performance as measured by the itemized performance standards;

(b) Itemization of any contract extensions or change orders that resulted in a change in the dollar value or cost of the contract; and

(c) A report of any remedial actions that were taken to enforce compliance with the contract, together with an estimate of the cost incurred by the agency, department, or institution of higher education in enforcing such compliance.

(4) In addition to any other terms required by law, the terms of any agreement to contract out a service pursuant to this section must include terms that address the following:

(a) The contract's contract management provision must allow review of the contractor's performance;

(b) The contract's termination clauses must allow termination of the contract if the contractor fails to meet the terms of the contract, including failure to meet performance standards or failure to provide the services at the contracted price;

(c) The contract's damages provision must allow recovery of direct damages and, when applicable, indirect damages that the agency, department, or institution of higher education incurs due to the contractor's breach of the agreement;

(d) If the contractor will be using a subcontractor for performance of services under the contract, the contract must allow the agency, department, or institution of higher education to obtain information about the subcontractor, as applicable to the performance of services under the agreement; and

(e) A provision requiring the contractor to consider employment of employees who may be displaced by the contract, if the contract is with an entity other than an employee business unit.

(5) Any provision contrary to or in conflict with this section in any collective bargaining agreement in effect on July 1, 2005, is not effective beyond the expiration date of the agreement.

(6) When contracting out for services as authorized in this section the agency, department, or institution of higher education must ensure firms adhere to the values of the state of Washington under RCW 49.60.030, which provide its citizens freedom from discrimination. Any relationship with a potential or current industry partner that is found to have violated RCW 49.60.030 by the attorney general shall not be considered and must be immediately terminated unless:

(a) The industry partner has fulfilled the conditions or obligations associated with any court order or settlement resulting from that violation; or

(b) The industry partner has taken significant and meaningful steps to correct the violation, as determined by the Washington state human rights commission.

(7) Competitive contracting shall be implemented as follows:

(a) At least ninety days prior to the date the contracting agency, department, or institution of higher education requests bids from private entities for a contract for services provided by employees, the contracting agency, department, or institution of higher education shall notify the employees whose positions or work would be displaced by the contract. The employees shall have sixty days from the date of notification to offer alternatives to purchasing services by contract, and the agency, department, or institution of higher education shall consider the alternatives before requesting bids.

(b) If the employees decide to compete for the contract, they shall notify the contracting agency, department, or institution of higher education of their decision. Employees must form one or more employee business units for the purpose of submitting a bid or bids to perform the services.

(c) The department of enterprise services, with the advice and assistance of the office of financial management, shall develop and make available to employee business units training in the bidding process and general bid preparation.

(d) The director of enterprise services, with the advice and assistance of the office of financial management, shall, by rule, establish procedures to ensure that bids are submitted and evaluated in a fair and objective manner and that there exists a competitive market for the service. Such rules shall include, but not be limited to: (i) Prohibitions against participation in the bid evaluation process by employees who prepared the business unit's bid or who perform any of the services to be contracted; (ii) provisions to

ensure no bidder receives an advantage over other bidders and that bid requirements are applied equitably to all parties; and (iii) procedures that require the contracting agency, department, or institution of higher education to receive complaints regarding the bidding process and to consider them before awarding the contract. Appeal of an agency's, department's, or institution of higher education's actions under this subsection is an adjudicative proceeding and subject to the applicable provisions of chapter 34.05 RCW, the administrative procedure act, with the final decision to be rendered by an administrative law judge assigned under chapter 34.12 RCW.

(e) An employee business unit's bid must include the fully allocated costs of the service, including the cost of the employees' salaries and benefits, space, equipment, materials, and other costs necessary to perform the function. An employee business unit's cost shall not include the state's indirect overhead costs unless those costs can be attributed directly to the function in question and would not exist if that function were not performed in state service.

(f) A department, agency, or institution of higher education may contract with the department of enterprise services to conduct the bidding process.

(8)(a) As used in this section:

(i) "Employee business unit" means a group of employees who perform services to be contracted under this section and who submit a bid for the performance of those services under subsection (7) of this section.

(ii) "Indirect overhead costs" means the pro rata share of existing agency administrative salaries and benefits, and rent, equipment costs, utilities, and materials associated with those administrative functions.

(iii) "Competitive contracting" means the process by which employees of a department, agency, or institution of higher education compete with businesses, individuals, nonprofit organizations, or other entities for contracts authorized by subsection (1) of this section.

(b) Unless otherwise specified, for the purpose of chapter 269, Laws of 2020, "employee" means state employees in the classified service under this chapter except employees in the Washington management service as defined under RCW 41.06.022 and 41.06.500.

(9) The processes set forth in subsections (1)(a), (2), (3), and (4)(a) through (d) of this section do not apply to contracts:

(a) Awarded for the purposes of or by the department of transportation;

(b) With an estimated cost of contract performance of twenty thousand dollars or less;

(c) With an estimated cost of contract performance that exceeds five hundred thousand dollars for public work as defined by RCW 39.04.010; or

(d) Relating to mechanical, plumbing as described in chapter 18.106 RCW, and electrical as described in chapter 19.28 RCW, procured to install systems for new construction or life-cycle replacement with an estimated cost of contract performance of seventy-five thousand dollars or more.

(10) The processes set forth in subsections (1) through (4), (7), and (8) of this section do not apply to:

(a) *RCW 74.13.031(6);

(b) The acquisition of printing services by a state agency; and

(c) Contracts for services expressly mandated by the legislature, including contracts for fire suppression awarded by the department of natural resources under RCW 76.04.181, or authorized by law prior to July 1, 2005, including contracts and agreements between public entities.

(11) The processes set forth in subsections (1) through (4), (7), and (8) of this section do not apply to Washington technology solutions when contracting for services or activities as follows:

(a) Contracting for services and activities that are necessary to establish, operate, or manage the state data center, including architecture, design, engineering, installation, and operation of the facility that are approved by the technology services board created in RCW 43.105.285.

(b) Contracting for services and activities recommended by the chief information officer through a business plan and approved by the technology services board created in RCW 43.105.285. [2024 c 54 s 37; 2020 c 269 s 2; 2011 1st sp.s. c 43 s 408; 2008 c 267 s 9; 2002 c 354 s 208.]

***Reviser's note:** RCW 74.13.031 was amended by 2024 c 298 s 8, changing subsection (6) to subsection (8), effective July 1, 2025.

Intent—Finding—2020 c 269: "It is the intent of the legislature to increase transparency and accountability of public contracts by requiring better evaluation of contract performance. Such evaluation should include an assessment of whether decisions to "contract out" government services to the private sector are achieving their stated objectives. In addition, it is the intent of the legislature to ensure that public contractors given access to state resources are held to ethical standards consistent with public values.

The legislature finds that prior to July 1, 2005, state agencies and institutions of higher education were prohibited from contracting out for services regularly and historically provided by classified state employees. Effective July 1, 2005, the personnel system reform act of 2002 lifted the prohibition, authorizing state agencies and institutions of higher education to contract out for services customarily and historically provided by classified state employees. It is therefore the intent of the legislature that this act be applied only to government services that, on or after July 1, 2005, have been customarily and historically performed by state employees in the classified service under chapter 41.06 RCW." [2020 c 269 s 1.]

Application—2020 c 269: "This act is prospective and applies only to contracts commenced on or after June 11, 2020. Contracts in effect prior to June 11, 2020, remain unaffected by this act through their expiration date." [2020 c 269 s 6.]

Effective date—Purpose—2011 1st sp.s. c 43: See notes following RCW 43.19.003.

Short title—Headings, captions not law—Severability—Effective dates—2002 c 354: See RCW 41.80.907 through 41.80.910.

RCW 41.06.150 Rules of director—Mandatory subjects—Personnel administration. The director shall adopt rules, consistent with the purposes and provisions of this chapter and with the best standards of

personnel administration, regarding the basis and procedures to be followed for:

- (1) Certification of names for vacancies;
- (2) Examinations for all positions in the competitive and noncompetitive service;
- (3) Appointments;
- (4) Permitting agency heads to delegate the authority to appoint, reduce, dismiss, suspend, or demote employees within their agencies if such agency heads do not have specific statutory authority to so delegate: PROVIDED, That the director may not authorize such delegation to any position lower than the head of a major subdivision of the agency;
- (5) Assuring persons who are or have been employed in classified positions before July 1, 1993, will be eligible for employment, reemployment, transfer, and promotion in respect to classified positions covered by this chapter;
- (6) Affirmative action in appointment, promotion, transfer, recruitment, training, and career development; development and implementation of affirmative action goals and timetables; and monitoring of progress against those goals and timetables.

The director shall consult with the human rights commission in the development of rules pertaining to affirmative action.

Rules adopted under this section by the director shall provide for local administration and management by the institutions of higher education and related boards, subject to periodic audit and review by the director. [2011 1st sp.s. c 43 s 409. Prior: 2002 c 371 s 906; 2002 c 354 s 203; 2002 c 354 s 202; 2002 c 110 s 1; 1999 c 297 s 3; 1996 c 319 s 2; 1995 2nd sp.s. c 18 s 911; prior: 1993 sp.s. c 24 s 913; 1993 c 281 s 27; 1990 c 60 s 103; prior: 1985 c 461 s 2; 1985 c 365 s 5; 1983 1st ex.s. c 75 s 5; 1982 1st ex.s. c 53 s 4; prior: 1982 c 79 s 1; 1981 c 311 s 18; 1980 c 118 s 3; 1979 c 151 s 57; 1977 ex.s. c 152 s 1; 1973 1st ex.s. c 75 s 1; 1973 c 154 s 1; 1971 ex.s. c 19 s 2; 1967 ex.s. c 108 s 13; 1961 c 1 s 15 (Initiative Measure No. 207, approved November 8, 1960).]

Effective date—Purpose—2011 1st sp.s. c 43: See notes following RCW 43.19.003.

Severability—Effective date—2002 c 371: See notes following RCW 9.46.100.

Short title—2002 c 354: See RCW 41.80.907.

Findings—1999 c 297: See note following RCW 43.03.125.

Severability—Effective date—1995 2nd sp.s. c 18: See notes following RCW 19.118.110.

Severability—Effective dates—1993 sp.s. c 24: See notes following RCW 28A.310.020.

Effective date—1993 c 281: See note following RCW 41.06.022.

Severability—Subheadings not law—1990 c 60: See notes following RCW 41.06.070.

Severability—1985 c 461: See note following RCW 41.06.020.

Severability—1982 1st ex.s. c 53: See note following RCW 41.06.020.

Severability—1980 c 118: See note following RCW 41.06.010.

Severability—1977 ex.s. c 152: "If any provision of this 1977 amendatory act, or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act, or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected." [1977 ex.s. c 152 s 14.]

Effective date—1973 1st ex.s. c 75: "This 1973 amendatory act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety, the support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and shall take effect midnight June 6, 1973." [1973 1st ex.s. c 75 s 3.]

Leave for public employees
military: RCW 38.40.060.
vacation: RCW 43.01.040.

Public employees' collective bargaining: Chapter 41.56 RCW.

RCW 41.06.152 Job classification revisions, class studies, salary adjustments—Limitations. (1) The director shall adopt only those job classification revisions, class studies, and salary adjustments under RCW 41.06.157 that:

(a) As defined by the director, are due to documented recruitment or retention difficulties, salary compression or inversion, classification plan maintenance, higher level duties and responsibilities, or inequities; and

(b) Are such that the office of financial management has reviewed the affected agency's fiscal impact statement and has concurred that the affected agency can absorb the biennialized cost of the reclassification, class study, or salary adjustment within the agency's current authorized level of funding for the current fiscal biennium and subsequent fiscal biennia.

(2) This section does not apply to the higher education hospital special pay plan or to any adjustments to the classification plan under RCW 41.06.157 that are due to emergent conditions. Emergent conditions are defined as emergency conditions requiring the establishment of positions necessary for the preservation of the public health, safety, or general welfare. [2011 1st sp.s. c 43 s 410; 2007 c 489 s 1; 2002 c 354 s 241; 2002 c 354 s 240; 1999 c 309 s 914; 1996 c 319 s 1.]

Effective date—Purpose—2011 1st sp.s. c 43: See notes following RCW 43.19.003.

Short title—Headings, captions not law—Severability—Effective dates—2002 c 354: See RCW 41.80.907 through 41.80.910.

Severability—1999 c 309: "If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected." [1999 c 309 s 2001.]

Effective date—1999 c 309: "This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect July 1, 1999, except as provided in section 2002 of this act." [1999 c 309 s 2003.]

RCW 41.06.155 Salaries—Implementation of changes to achieve comparable worth. Salary changes necessary to achieve comparable worth shall be implemented during the 1983-85 biennium under a schedule developed by the department. Increases in salaries and compensation solely for the purpose of achieving comparable worth shall be made at least annually. Comparable worth for the jobs of all employees under this chapter shall be fully achieved not later than June 30, 1993. [1993 c 281 s 28; 1983 1st ex.s. c 75 s 6.]

Effective date—1993 c 281: See note following RCW 41.06.022.

RCW 41.06.157 Comprehensive classification plan for classified positions—Contents—Salary surveys. (1) To promote the most effective use of the state's workforce and improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the delivery of services to the citizens of the state, the director shall adopt and maintain a comprehensive classification plan for all positions in the classified service. The classification plan must:

- (a) Be simple and streamlined;
- (b) Support state agencies in responding to changing technologies, economic and social conditions, and the needs of its citizens;
- (c) Value workplace diversity;
- (d) Facilitate the reorganization and decentralization of governmental services;
- (e) Enhance mobility and career advancement opportunities;
- (f) Consider rates in other public employment and private employment in the state;
- (g) Not require a two-year or four-year college degree as the only way to demonstrate qualifications for the role unless that degree is required by law for an employee to perform the essential functions of a classification; and
- (h) Recognize that persons legally authorized to work in the United States under federal law, including deferred action for childhood arrivals recipients, are eligible for employment unless prohibited by other state or federal law.

(2) An appointing authority and an employee organization representing classified employees of the appointing authority for collective bargaining purposes may jointly request the director of financial management to initiate a classification study.

(3) For institutions of higher education and related boards, the director may adopt special salary ranges to be competitive with

positions of a similar nature in the state or the locality in which the institution of higher education or related board is located.

(4) The director may undertake salary surveys of positions in other public and private employment to establish market rates. Any salary survey information collected from private employers which identifies a specific employer with salary rates which the employer pays to its employees shall not be subject to public disclosure under chapter 42.56 RCW. [2024 c 330 s 11; 2024 c 70 s 2; 2015 3rd sp.s. c 1 s 315; 2011 1st sp.s. c 43 s 411.]

Reviser's note: This section was amended by 2024 c 70 s 2 and by 2024 c 330 s 11, each without reference to the other. Both amendments are incorporated in the publication of this section under RCW 1.12.025(2). For rule of construction, see RCW 1.12.025(1).

Intent—2024 c 70: "It is the intent of the legislature to reduce the number of positions in state employment that unnecessarily have requirements of completing a two-year or four-year college degree as the only way to meet the qualifications of a job. While the legislature recognizes that certain positions have a need for technical, scientific, or professional training that make a specialized course of study necessary, in other cases the requirement of a two-year or four-year college degree is added to job requirements as an indicator of general skills or knowledge, such as skills in writing, analysis, or presentations which are readily acquired in today's society through other means." [2024 c 70 s 1.]

Effective date—Purpose—2011 1st sp.s. c 43: See notes following RCW 43.19.003.

RCW 41.06.160 Classification and salary schedules to consider rates in other public and private employment—Wage and fringe benefits surveys—Limited public disclosure exemption. In preparing classification and salary schedules as set forth in RCW 41.06.150 the office of financial management shall give full consideration to prevailing rates in other public employment and in private employment in this state. For this purpose the department shall undertake comprehensive salary and fringe benefit surveys.

Salary and fringe benefit survey information collected from private employers which identifies a specific employer with the salary and fringe benefit rates which that employer pays to its employees shall not be subject to public disclosure under chapter 42.56 RCW. [2019 c 146 s 4; 2005 c 274 s 278; 2002 c 354 s 211; 1993 c 281 s 29; 1985 c 94 s 2; 1980 c 11 s 1; 1979 c 151 s 58; 1977 ex.s. c 152 s 2; 1961 c 1 s 16 (Initiative Measure No. 207, approved November 8, 1960).]

Short title—2002 c 354: See RCW 41.80.907.

Effective date—1993 c 281: See note following RCW 41.06.022.

Severability—1977 ex.s. c 152: See note following RCW 41.06.150.

RCW 41.06.162 State salary schedule. The director of financial management shall adopt and maintain a state salary schedule. Such adoption and revision is subject to approval by the director in accordance with chapter 43.88 RCW. [2011 1st sp.s. c 43 s 412.]

Effective date—Purpose—2011 1st sp.s. c 43: See notes following RCW 43.19.003.

RCW 41.06.167 Compensation surveys required for officers and officer candidates of the Washington state patrol—Limited public disclosure exemption. The director of financial management shall undertake comprehensive compensation surveys for officers and entry-level officer candidates of the Washington state patrol, with such surveys to be conducted in the year prior to the convening of every other one hundred five day regular session of the state legislature. Salary and fringe benefit survey information collected from private employers which identifies a specific employer with the salary and fringe benefit rates which that employer pays to its employees shall not be subject to public disclosure under chapter 42.56 RCW. [2015 3rd sp.s. c 1 s 316; 2011 1st sp.s. c 43 s 413; 2005 c 274 s 279; 2002 c 354 s 212; 1991 c 196 s 1; 1986 c 158 s 7; 1985 c 94 s 3; 1980 c 11 s 2; 1979 c 151 s 60; 1977 ex.s. c 152 s 5.]

Effective date—Purpose—2011 1st sp.s. c 43: See notes following RCW 43.19.003.

Short title—2002 c 354: See RCW 41.80.907.

Severability—1977 ex.s. c 152: See note following RCW 41.06.150.

RCW 41.06.169 Employee performance evaluations—Standardized procedures and forms required to be developed. After consultation with state agency heads, employee organizations, and other interested parties, the director shall develop standardized employee performance evaluation procedures and forms which shall be used by state agencies for the appraisal of employee job performance at least annually. These procedures shall include means whereby individual agencies may supplement the standardized evaluation process with special performance factors peculiar to specific organizational needs. Performance evaluation procedures shall place primary emphasis on recording how well the employee has contributed to efficiency, effectiveness, and economy in fulfilling state agency and job objectives. [2011 1st sp.s. c 43 s 414; 1985 c 461 s 3; 1982 1st ex.s. c 53 s 5; 1977 ex.s. c 152 s 6.]

Effective date—Purpose—2011 1st sp.s. c 43: See notes following RCW 43.19.003.

Severability—1985 c 461: See note following RCW 41.06.020.

Severability—1982 1st ex.s. c 53: See note following RCW 41.06.020.

Severability—1977 ex.s. c 152: See note following RCW 41.06.150.

RCW 41.06.170 Reduction, suspension, dismissal, demotion of employee—Right to appeal. (1) The director, in the adoption of rules governing suspensions for cause, shall not authorize an appointing authority to suspend an employee for more than fifteen calendar days as a single penalty or more than thirty calendar days in any one calendar year as an accumulation of several penalties. The director shall require that the appointing authority give written notice to the employee not later than one day after the suspension takes effect, stating the reasons for and the duration thereof.

(2) Any employee who is reduced, dismissed, suspended, or demoted, after completing his or her probationary period of service as provided by the rules of the director, or any employee who is adversely affected by a violation of the state civil service law, chapter 41.06 RCW [this chapter], or rules adopted under it, shall have the right to appeal, either individually or through his or her authorized representative, not later than thirty days after the effective date of such action to the Washington personnel resources board. The employee shall be furnished with specified charges in writing when a reduction, dismissal, suspension, or demotion action is taken. Such appeal shall be in writing. Decisions of the Washington personnel resources board on appeals filed after June 30, 2005, shall be final and not subject to further appeal.

(3) Any employee whose position has been exempted after July 1, 1993, shall have the right to appeal, either individually or through his or her authorized representative, not later than thirty days after the effective date of such action to the Washington personnel resources board. If the position being exempted is vacant, the exclusive bargaining unit representative may act in lieu of an employee for the purposes of appeal.

(4) An employee incumbent in a position at the time of its allocation or reallocation, or the agency utilizing the position, may appeal the allocation or reallocation to the Washington personnel resources board. Notice of such appeal must be filed in writing within thirty days of the action from which appeal is taken.

(5) Subsections (1) and (2) of this section do not apply to any employee who is subject to the provisions of a collective bargaining agreement negotiated under RCW 41.80.001 and 41.80.010 through 41.80.130. [2011 1st sp.s. c 43 s 415; 2009 c 534 s 3; 2002 c 354 s 213; 1993 c 281 s 31; 1981 c 311 s 19; 1975-'76 2nd ex.s. c 43 s 3; 1961 c 1 s 17 (Initiative Measure No. 207, approved November 8, 1960).]

Effective date—Purpose—2011 1st sp.s. c 43: See notes following RCW 43.19.003.

Finding—Intent—2009 c 534: See note following RCW 41.06.133.

Appeals filed on or before June 30, 2005—2002 c 354: "The transfer of the powers, duties, and functions of the personnel appeals board to the personnel resources board under *RCW 41.06.111 and the transfer of jurisdiction for appeals filed under section 213, chapter 354, Laws of 2002 after June 30, 2005, shall not affect the right of an appellant to have an appeal filed on or before June 30, 2005, resolved by the personnel appeals board in accordance with the authorities, rules, and procedures that were established under chapter 41.64 RCW as it existed before July 1, 2004." [2002 c 354 s 214.]

***Reviser's note:** RCW 41.06.111 was repealed by 2011 1st sp.s. c 43 s 478.

Short title—Headings, captions not law—Severability—Effective dates—2002 c 354: See RCW 41.80.907 through 41.80.910.

Effective date—1993 c 281: See note following RCW 41.06.022.

RCW 41.06.176 Employee performance evaluations—Written notification of deficiencies. Each employee whose work is judged unsatisfactory shall be notified in writing of the areas in which the work is considered deficient. Unless the deficiency is extreme, the employee shall be given an opportunity to demonstrate improvement. [1985 c 461 s 4.]

Severability—1985 c 461: See note following RCW 41.06.020.

RCW 41.06.186 Employee performance evaluations—Termination of employment—Rules. The director shall adopt rules designed to terminate the state employment of any employee whose performance is so inadequate as to warrant termination. [2002 c 354 s 215; 1993 c 281 s 32; 1985 c 461 s 5.]

Short title—Headings, captions not law—Severability—Effective dates—2002 c 354: See RCW 41.80.907 through 41.80.910.

Effective date—1993 c 281: See note following RCW 41.06.022.

Severability—1985 c 461: See note following RCW 41.06.020.

RCW 41.06.196 Employee performance evaluations—Termination of supervisors tolerating inadequate employee performance. The director shall adopt rules designed to remove from supervisory positions those supervisors who in violation of the rules adopted under RCW 41.06.186 have tolerated the continued employment of employees under their supervision whose performance has warranted termination from state employment. [2002 c 354 s 216; 1993 c 281 s 33; 1985 c 461 s 6.]

Short title—Headings, captions not law—Severability—Effective dates—2002 c 354: See RCW 41.80.907 through 41.80.910.

Effective date—1993 c 281: See note following RCW 41.06.022.

Severability—1985 c 461: See note following RCW 41.06.020.

Duty of state officers to identify employees whose performance warrants termination from state employment: RCW 43.01.125.

RCW 41.06.204 Use of false academic credentials—Penalties. A person who issues or uses a false academic credential is subject to RCW 28B.85.220 and 9A.60.070. [2006 c 234 s 7.]

RCW 41.06.220 Reinstatement after appeal, guaranteed rights and benefits. Any employee, when fully reinstated after appeal, shall be guaranteed all employee rights and benefits, including back pay, sick leave, vacation accrual, retirement and OASDI credits. [2011 1st sp.s. c 43 s 416; 1961 c 1 s 22 (Initiative Measure No. 207, approved November 8, 1960).]

Effective date—Purpose—2011 1st sp.s. c 43: See notes following RCW 43.19.003.

RCW 41.06.250 Political activities. (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 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 and to hold any political party office or participate in the management of a partisan, political campaign. Nothing in this section shall prohibit 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) 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 incompatible with, 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 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. [1974 ex.s. c 136 s 1; 1961 c 1 s 25 (Initiative Measure No. 207, approved November 8, 1960).]

RCW 41.06.260 Conflict with federal requirements—Effect—Rules to conform chapter. If any part of this chapter shall be found to be in conflict with federal requirements which are a condition precedent to the allocation of federal funds to the state, such conflicting part of this chapter is hereby declared to be inoperative solely to the extent of such conflict and with respect to the agencies directly affected, and such findings or determination shall not affect the operation of the remainder of this chapter in its application to the agencies concerned. The office of financial management and the

department of enterprise services, as appropriate, shall make such rules and regulations as may be necessary to meet federal requirements which are a condition precedent to the receipt of federal funds by the state. [2011 1st sp.s. c 43 s 417; 1961 c 1 s 26 (Initiative Measure No. 207, approved November 8, 1960).]

Effective date—Purpose—2011 1st sp.s. c 43: See notes following RCW 43.19.003.

RCW 41.06.270 Salary withheld unless employment is in accord with chapter—Certification of payrolls, procedures. A disbursing officer shall not pay any employee holding a position covered by this chapter unless the employment is in accordance with this chapter or the rules, regulations and orders issued hereunder. The directors of enterprise services and financial management shall jointly establish procedures for the certification of payrolls. [2011 1st sp.s. c 43 s 418; 2002 c 354 s 217; 1979 c 151 s 61; 1961 c 1 s 27 (Initiative Measure No. 207, approved November 8, 1960).]

Effective date—Purpose—2011 1st sp.s. c 43: See notes following RCW 43.19.003.

Short title—Headings, captions not law—Severability—Effective dates—2002 c 354: See RCW 41.80.907 through 41.80.910.

RCW 41.06.280 Personnel service fund—Created—Charges to agencies, payment—Use. (1) The personnel service fund is created in the state treasury, to be used by the office of financial management as a revolving fund for the payment of salaries, wages, and operations required for the administration of the provisions of this chapter, applicable provisions of chapter 41.04 RCW, and chapter 41.60 RCW. An amount not to exceed one and one-half percent of the salaries and wages for all positions in each of the agencies subject to this chapter, except the institutions of higher education, shall be charged to the operations appropriations of each agency and credited to the personnel service fund as the allotments are approved pursuant to chapter 43.88 RCW. Subject to the above limitations, the amount shall be charged against the allotments pro rata, at a rate to be fixed by the director from time to time which, together with income derived from services rendered under RCW 41.06.080, will provide the office of financial management with funds to meet its anticipated expenditures during the allotment period, including the training requirements in RCW 41.06.500 and 41.06.530.

(2) The director shall fix the terms and charges for services rendered by the office of financial management pursuant to RCW 41.06.080, which amounts shall be credited to the personnel service fund and charged against the proper fund or appropriation of the recipient of such services no longer than on a quarterly basis. Payment for services so rendered under RCW 41.06.080 shall be made according to the state administrative and accounting manual (SAAM) to the state treasurer and deposited in the personnel service fund.

(3) The office of financial management may use the personnel service fund to administer an employee transit pass program and other employment benefits. The office of financial management must bill

state agencies for the total cost of administering the program and payments received from agencies must be deposited in the personnel service fund.

(4) During the 2025-2027 fiscal biennium, moneys in the account may also be transferred into the state general fund. [2025 c 424 s 938; 2023 c 435 s 2; 2022 c 157 s 12; 2021 c 334 s 964; 2019 c 415 s 957; 2016 sp.s. c 36 s 919; 2013 2nd sp.s. c 4 s 968; 2013 2nd sp.s. c 4 s 967; 2013 c 251 s 1; 2011 1st sp.s. c 43 s 419; 1993 c 379 s 309; 1993 c 281 s 34; 1987 c 248 s 4; 1984 c 7 s 45; 1982 c 167 s 13; 1963 c 215 s 1; 1961 c 1 s 28 (Initiative Measure No. 207, approved November 8, 1960).]

Effective date—2025 c 424: See note following RCW 9.46.100.

Effective date—2023 c 435: See note following RCW 43.79.570.

Conflict with federal requirements—Effective date—2021 c 334: See notes following RCW 43.79.555.

Effective date—2019 c 415: See note following RCW 28B.20.476.

Effective date—2016 sp.s. c 36: See note following RCW 18.20.430.

Effective dates—2013 2nd sp.s. c 4: See note following RCW 2.68.020.

Residual balance of funds—2013 c 251: "Any residual balance of funds remaining in the public printing revolving account repealed by section 13 of this act on June 30, 2013, shall be transferred to the enterprise services account. Any residual balance of funds remaining in the Puyallup tribal settlement account repealed by section 13 of this act on June 30, 2013, shall be transferred to the motor vehicle fund. Any residual balance of funds remaining in any other account abolished in this act on June 30, 2013, shall be transferred by the state treasurer to the state general fund." [2013 c 251 s 17.]

Effective date—2013 c 251: "Except for section 4 of this act, this act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect June 30, 2013." [2013 c 251 s 18.]

Effective date—Purpose—2011 1st sp.s. c 43: See notes following RCW 43.19.003.

Intent—Severability—Effective date—1993 c 379: See notes following RCW 28B.10.029.

Effective date—1993 c 281: See note following RCW 41.06.022.

Legislative findings—Purpose—1987 c 248: See note following RCW 41.04.362.

Severability—1982 c 167: See note following RCW 41.60.015.

RCW 41.06.285 Higher education personnel service fund. (1) The higher education personnel service fund is created in the state treasury, to be used by the office of financial management as a revolving fund for the payment of salaries, wages, and operations required for the administration of the provisions of this chapter and applicable provisions of chapters 41.04 and 41.60 RCW. An amount not to exceed one-half of one percent of the salaries and wages for all positions in the classified service shall be contributed from the operations appropriations of each institution and the state board for community and technical colleges and credited to the higher education personnel service fund as such allotments are approved pursuant to chapter 43.88 RCW. Subject to the above limitations, such amount shall be charged against the allotments pro rata, at a rate to be fixed by the director of financial management from time to time, which will provide the office of financial management with funds to meet its anticipated expenditures during the allotment period.

(2) During the 2025-2027 fiscal biennium, moneys in the account may also be transferred into the state general fund. [2025 c 424 s 939; 2023 c 435 s 3; 2011 1st sp.s. c 43 s 420; 1998 c 245 s 41; 1993 c 379 s 308.]

Effective date—2025 c 424: See note following RCW 9.46.100.

Effective date—2023 c 435: See note following RCW 43.79.570.

Effective date—Purpose—2011 1st sp.s. c 43: See notes following RCW 43.19.003.

Intent—Severability—Effective date—1993 c 379: See notes following RCW 28B.10.029.

RCW 41.06.290 Personnel subject to chapter 47.64 RCW not affected. Nothing in this chapter shall be interpreted as changing the provisions of or affecting the conditions of employment for personnel covered by chapter 47.64 RCW. [1961 c 1 s 29 (Initiative Measure No. 207, approved November 8, 1960).]

RCW 41.06.340 Determination of appropriate bargaining units—Unfair labor practices provisions applicable to chapter. (1) With respect to collective bargaining as authorized by RCW 41.80.001 and 41.80.010 through 41.80.130, the public employment relations commission created by chapter 41.58 RCW shall have authority to adopt rules, on and after June 13, 2002, relating to determination of appropriate bargaining units within any agency. In making such determination the commission shall consider the duties, skills, and working conditions of the employees, the history of collective bargaining by the employees and their bargaining representatives, the extent of organization among the employees, and the desires of the employees. The public employment relations commission created in chapter 41.58 RCW shall adopt rules and make determinations relating to the certification and decertification of exclusive bargaining representatives.

(2) Each and every provision of *RCW 41.56.045 through 41.56.051 shall be applicable to this chapter as it relates to state civil service employees.

(3) A collective bargaining agreement entered into under RCW 41.06.150 before July 1, 2004, covering employees subject to RCW 41.80.001 and 41.80.010 through 41.80.130 that expires after July 1, 2004, shall remain in full force during its duration, or until superseded by a collective bargaining agreement entered into by the parties under RCW 41.80.001 and 41.80.010 through 41.80.130. However, an agreement entered into before July 1, 2004, may not be renewed or extended beyond July 1, 2005, or until superseded by a collective bargaining agreement entered into under RCW 41.80.001 and 41.80.010 through 41.80.130, whichever is later. [2002 c 354 s 232; 1993 c 281 s 35; 1969 ex.s. c 215 s 13.]

***Reviser's note:** These RCW references have been corrected to reflect the reorganization of chapter 41.56 RCW by 2025 c 290 s 2.

Short title—2002 c 354: See RCW 41.80.907.

Effective date—1993 c 281: See note following RCW 41.06.022.

RCW 41.06.350 Acceptance of federal funds authorized. The director is authorized to receive federal funds now available or hereafter made available for the assistance and improvement of public personnel administration, which may be expended in addition to the personnel service fund established by RCW 41.06.280. [2011 1st sp.s. c 43 s 421; 2002 c 354 s 218; 1993 c 281 s 36; 1969 ex.s. c 152 s 1.]

Effective date—Purpose—2011 1st sp.s. c 43: See notes following RCW 43.19.003.

Short title—Headings, captions not law—Severability—Effective dates—2002 c 354: See RCW 41.80.907 through 41.80.910.

Effective date—1993 c 281: See note following RCW 41.06.022.

RCW 41.06.395 Training programs on sexual harassment. The director shall adopt rules establishing guidelines for policies, procedures, and mandatory training programs on sexual harassment for state employees to be adopted by state agencies. The department of enterprise services shall establish reporting requirements for state agencies on compliance with RCW 43.01.135. [2011 1st sp.s. c 43 s 422; 2007 c 76 s 1.]

Effective date—Purpose—2011 1st sp.s. c 43: See notes following RCW 43.19.003.

RCW 41.06.400 Training and career development programs—Powers and duties of department of enterprise services. (1) In addition to other powers and duties specified in this chapter, the department of enterprise services in consultation with the office of financial management shall:

(a) By rule, prescribe the purpose and minimum standards for training and career development programs and, in so doing, regularly consult with and consider the needs of individual agencies and employees;

(b) Provide training and career development programs which may be conducted more efficiently and economically on an interagency basis;

(c) Promote interagency sharing of resources for training and career development;

(d) Monitor and review the impact of training and career development programs to ensure that the responsibilities of the state to provide equal employment opportunities are diligently carried out.

(2) At an agency's request, the department of enterprise services may provide training and career development programs for an agency's internal use which may be conducted more efficiently and economically by the department of enterprise services. [2011 1st sp.s. c 43 s 423; 2002 c 354 s 219; 1980 c 118 s 4.]

Effective date—Purpose—2011 1st sp.s. c 43: See notes following RCW 43.19.003.

Short title—Headings, captions not law—Severability—Effective dates—2002 c 354: See RCW 41.80.907 through 41.80.910.

Severability—1980 c 118: See note following RCW 41.06.010.

RCW 41.06.410 Agency training and career development plans—Budget. Each agency subject to the provisions of this chapter shall:

(1) Prepare an employee training and career development plan which shall at least meet minimum standards established by the department of enterprise services;

(2) Provide for training and career development for its employees in accordance with the agency plan;

(3) Budget for training and career development in accordance with procedures of the office of financial management. [2011 1st sp.s. c 43 s 424; 2002 c 354 s 220; 1980 c 118 s 5.]

Effective date—Purpose—2011 1st sp.s. c 43: See notes following RCW 43.19.003.

Short title—Headings, captions not law—Severability—Effective dates—2002 c 354: See RCW 41.80.907 through 41.80.910.

Severability—1980 c 118: See note following RCW 41.06.010.

RCW 41.06.420 Entry-level management training course—Rules—Requirements—Suspension—Waiver—Designation of supervisory or management positions. (1) The office of financial management, by rule, shall prescribe the conditions under which an employee appointed to a supervisory or management position after June 12, 1980, shall be required to successfully complete an entry-level management training course as approved by the director. Such training shall not be required of any employee who has completed a management training course prior to the employee's appointment which is, in the judgment

of the director, at least equivalent to the entry-level course required by this section.

(2) The office of financial management, by rule, shall establish procedures for the suspension of the entry-level training requirement in cases where the ability of an agency to perform its responsibilities is adversely affected, or for the waiver of this requirement in cases where a person has demonstrated experience as a substitute for training.

(3) Agencies subject to the provisions of this chapter, in accordance with rules prescribed by the office of financial management, shall designate individual positions, or groups of positions, as being "supervisory" or "management" positions. Such designations shall be subject to review by the director. [2011 1st sp.s. c 43 s 425; 1980 c 118 s 6.]

Effective date—Purpose—2011 1st sp.s. c 43: See notes following RCW 43.19.003.

Severability—1980 c 118: See note following RCW 41.06.010.

RCW 41.06.450 Destruction or retention of information relating to employee misconduct. (1) The director shall adopt rules applicable to each agency to ensure that information relating to employee misconduct or alleged misconduct is destroyed or maintained as follows:

(a) All such information determined to be false and all such information in situations where the employee has been fully exonerated of wrongdoing, shall be promptly destroyed;

(b) All such information having no reasonable bearing on the employee's job performance or on the efficient and effective management of the agency, shall be promptly destroyed;

(c) All other information shall be retained only so long as it has a reasonable bearing on the employee's job performance or on the efficient and effective management of the agency.

(2) Notwithstanding subsection (1) of this section, an agency may retain information relating to employee misconduct or alleged misconduct if:

(a) The employee requests that the information be retained; or

(b) The information is related to pending legal action or legal action may be reasonably expected to result.

(3) In adopting rules under this section, the director shall consult with the public disclosure commission to ensure that the public policy of the state, as expressed in chapters *42.17 and 42.56 RCW, is adequately protected. [2005 c 274 s 280; 2002 c 354 s 221; 1993 c 281 s 37; 1982 c 208 s 10.]

***Reviser's note:** Provisions in chapter 42.17 RCW relating to public disclosure were recodified in chapter 42.56 RCW by 2005 c 274.

Short title—Headings, captions not law—Severability—Effective dates—2002 c 354: See RCW 41.80.907 through 41.80.910.

Effective date—1993 c 281: See note following RCW 41.06.022.

Legislative finding—Purpose—RCW 41.06.450: "The legislature finds that, under some circumstances, maintaining information relating

to state employee misconduct or alleged misconduct is unfair to employees and serves no useful function to the state. The purpose of RCW 41.06.450 is to direct the personnel board to adopt rules governing maintenance of employee records so that the records are maintained in a manner which is fair to employees, which ensures proper management of state governmental affairs, and which adequately protects the public interest." [1982 c 208 s 9.]

Application of public disclosure law to information relating to employee misconduct: RCW 42.56.110.

Employee inspection of personnel file: RCW 49.12.240 through 49.12.260.

RCW 41.06.455 Destruction of employee records authorized if consistent with other laws. RCW 41.06.450 does not prohibit an agency from destroying identifying information in records relating to employee misconduct or alleged misconduct if the agency deems the action is consistent with the policy expressed in RCW 41.06.450 and in chapter 42.56 RCW. [2005 c 274 s 281; 1982 c 208 s 11.]

RCW 41.06.460 Application of RCW 41.06.450 and 41.06.455 to classified and exempt employees. Notwithstanding RCW 41.06.040, 41.06.450 and 41.06.455 apply to all classified and exempt employees of the state, including employees of the institutions of higher education. [1982 c 208 s 12.]

RCW 41.06.475 Employees with unsupervised access to children—Rules for background investigation. The director shall adopt rules, in cooperation with the secretary of the department of children, youth, and families, for the background investigation of current employees and of persons being actively considered for positions with the department who will or may have unsupervised access to children. The director shall also adopt rules, in cooperation with the secretary of the department of children, youth, and families, for background investigation of positions otherwise required by federal law to meet employment standards. "Considered for positions" includes decisions about (1) initial hiring, layoffs, reallocations, transfers, promotions, or demotions, or (2) other decisions that result in an individual being in a position that will or may have unsupervised access to children as an employee, an intern, or a volunteer. [2017 3rd sp.s. c 6 s 807; 2007 c 387 s 8; 2002 c 354 s 222; 1993 c 281 s 38; 1986 c 269 s 2.]

Effective date—2017 3rd sp.s. c 6 ss 102, 104-115, 201-227, 301-337, 401-419, 501-513, 801-803, and 805-822: See note following RCW 43.216.025.

Conflict with federal requirements—2017 3rd sp.s. c 6: See RCW 43.216.908.

Short title—Headings, captions not law—Severability—Effective dates—2002 c 354: See RCW 41.80.907 through 41.80.910.

Effective date—1993 c 281: See note following RCW 41.06.022.

Children and vulnerable adults: RCW 43.43.830 through 43.43.842.

State hospitals: RCW 72.23.035.

Supervision, care, or treatment of children or individuals with developmental disabilities or other vulnerable persons—State employment—Investigation of conviction records or pending charges: RCW 43.20A.710.

RCW 41.06.476 Background investigation rules—Updating. (1) The office of financial management shall amend any existing rules established under RCW 41.06.475 and adopt rules developed in cooperation and agreement with the department of social and health services to implement the provisions of chapter 296, Laws of 2001.

(2) The legislature's delegation of authority to the agency under chapter 296, Laws of 2001 is strictly limited to:

(a) The minimum delegation necessary to administer the clear and unambiguous directives of chapter 296, Laws of 2001; and

(b) The administration of circumstances and behaviors foreseeable at *the time of enactment. [2011 1st sp.s. c 43 s 426; 2001 c 296 s 6.]

***Reviser's note:** 2001 c 296 attained final passage by the legislature on April 20, 2001, was signed by the governor and filed with the secretary of state on May 14, 2001, and took effect July 22, 2001.

Effective date—Purpose—2011 1st sp.s. c 43: See notes following RCW 43.19.003.

Intent—2001 c 296: See note following RCW 9.96A.060.

RCW 41.06.490 State employee return-to-work program. In addition to the rules adopted under RCW 41.06.150, the director shall adopt rules establishing a state employee return-to-work program. The program shall, at a minimum:

(1) Direct each agency to adopt a return-to-work policy. The program shall allow each agency program to take into consideration the special nature of employment in the agency;

(2) Provide for eligibility in the return-to-work program, for a minimum of two years from the date the temporary disability commenced, for any permanent employee who is receiving compensation under RCW 51.32.090 and who is, by reason of his or her temporary disability, unable to return to his or her previous work, but who is physically capable of carrying out work of a lighter or modified nature;

(3) Require each agency to name an agency representative responsible for coordinating the return-to-work program of the agency;

(4) Provide that applicants receiving appointments for classified service receive an explanation of the return-to-work policy;

(5) Require training of supervisors on implementation of the return-to-work policy, including but not limited to assessment of the appropriateness of the return-to-work job for the employee; and

(6) Coordinate participation of applicable employee assistance programs, as appropriate. [2011 1st sp.s. c 43 s 427; 2002 c 354 s 223; 1990 c 204 s 3.]

Effective date—Purpose—2011 1st sp.s. c 43: See notes following RCW 43.19.003.

Short title—Headings, captions not law—Severability—Effective dates—2002 c 354: See RCW 41.80.907 through 41.80.910.

Findings—Purpose—1990 c 204: See note following RCW 51.44.170.

RCW 41.06.500 Managers—Rules—Goals. (1) Except as provided in RCW 41.06.070 and subject to RCW 41.04.820, notwithstanding any other provisions of this chapter, the director is authorized to adopt, after consultation with state agencies and employee organizations, rules for managers as defined in RCW 41.06.022. These rules shall not apply to managers employed by institutions of higher education or related boards or whose positions are exempt. The rules shall govern recruitment, appointment, classification and allocation of positions, examination, training and career development, hours of work, probation, certification, compensation, transfer, affirmative action, promotion, layoff, reemployment, performance appraisals, discipline, and any and all other personnel practices for managers. These rules shall be separate from rules adopted for other employees, and to the extent that the rules adopted under this section apply only to managers shall take precedence over rules adopted for other employees, and are not subject to review by the board.

(2) In establishing rules for managers, the director shall adhere to the following goals:

(a) Development of a simplified classification system that facilitates movement of managers between agencies and promotes upward mobility;

(b) Creation of a compensation system that provides flexibility in setting and changing salaries, and shall require review and approval by the director in the case of any salary changes greater than five percent proposed for any group of employees;

(c) Establishment of a performance appraisal system that emphasizes individual accountability for program results and efficient management of resources; effective planning, organization, and communication skills; valuing and managing workplace diversity; development of leadership and interpersonal abilities; and employee development;

(d) Strengthening management training and career development programs that build critical management knowledge, skills, and abilities; focusing on managing and valuing workplace diversity; empowering employees by enabling them to share in workplace decision making and to be innovative, willing to take risks, and able to accept and deal with change; promoting a workplace where the overall focus is on the recipient of the government services and how these services can be improved; and enhancing mobility and career advancement opportunities;

(e) Permitting flexible recruitment and hiring procedures that enable agencies to compete effectively with other employers, both public and private, for managers with appropriate skills and training;

allowing consideration of all qualified candidates for positions as managers; and achieving affirmative action goals and diversity in the workplace;

(f) Providing that managers may only be reduced, dismissed, suspended, or demoted for cause; and

(g) Facilitating decentralized and regional administration.

(3) From February 18, 2009, through June 30, 2013, a salary or wage increase shall not be granted to any position under this section, except that increases may be granted for positions for which the employer has demonstrated difficulty retaining qualified employees if the following conditions are met:

(a) The salary increase can be paid within existing resources;

(b) The salary increase will not adversely impact the provision of client services; and

(c) For any state agency of the executive branch, not including institutions of higher education, the salary increase is approved by the director of the office of financial management.

Any agency granting a salary increase from February 15, 2010, through June 30, 2011, to a position under this section shall submit a report to the fiscal committees of the legislature no later than July 31, 2011, detailing the positions for which salary increases were granted, the size of the increases, and the reasons for giving the increases.

Any agency granting a salary increase from July 1, 2011, through June 30, 2013, to a position under this section shall submit a report to the fiscal committees of the legislature by July 31, 2012, and July 31, 2013, detailing the positions for which salary increases were granted during the preceding fiscal year, the size of the increases, and the reasons for giving the increases.

(4) From February 15, 2010, until June 30, 2013, no monetary performance-based awards or growth and development progression adjustments may be granted by the director or employers to the Washington management service employees covered by the rules adopted under this section. This subsection does not prohibit the payment of awards provided for in chapter 41.60 RCW.

From July 1, 2011, until June 30, 2013, no performance-based awards or incentives may be granted by the director or employers to employees pursuant to a performance management confirmation granted by the department of personnel under WAC 357-37-055.

From July 1, 2011, through June 29, 2013, salaries for all positions under this section are subject to RCW 41.04.820. [2011 1st sp.s. c 39 s 6. Prior: 2010 c 2 s 4; 2010 c 1 s 3; 2009 c 5 s 3; 2002 c 354 s 243; 2002 c 354 s 242; 1996 c 319 s 4; 1993 c 281 s 9.]

Effective date—2011 1st sp.s. c 39: See note following RCW 41.04.820.

Findings—Effective date—2010 c 2: See notes following RCW 41.06.070.

Effective date—2010 c 1: See note following RCW 41.06.070.

Effective date—2009 c 5: See note following RCW 41.06.070.

Short title—Headings, captions not law—Severability—Effective dates—2002 c 354: See RCW 41.80.907 through 41.80.910.

Effective date—1993 c 281: See note following RCW 41.06.022.

RCW 41.06.510 Institutions of higher education—Designation of personnel officer. Each institution of higher education and each related board shall designate an officer who shall perform duties as personnel officer. The personnel officer at each institution or related board shall direct, supervise, and manage administrative and technical personnel activities for the classified service at the institution or related board consistent with policies established by the institution or related board and in accordance with the provisions of this chapter and the rules adopted under this chapter. Institutions may undertake jointly with one or more other institutions to appoint a person qualified to perform the duties of personnel officer, provide staff and financial support and may engage consultants to assist in the performance of specific projects. The services of the department of enterprise services and the office of financial management may also be used by the institutions or related boards pursuant to RCW 41.06.080.

The state board for community and technical colleges shall have general supervision and control over activities undertaken by the various community colleges pursuant to this section. [2011 1st sp.s. c 43 s 428; 1993 c 281 s 10.]

Effective date—Purpose—2011 1st sp.s. c 43: See notes following RCW 43.19.003.

Effective date—1993 c 281: See note following RCW 41.06.022.

RCW 41.06.530 Personnel resource and management policy—Implementation. (1) The legislature recognizes that:

(a) The labor market and the state government workforce are diverse in terms of gender, race, ethnicity, age, and the presence of disabilities.

(b) The state's personnel resource and management practices must be responsive to the diverse nature of its workforce composition.

(c) Managers in all agencies play a key role in the implementation of all critical personnel policies.

It is therefore the policy of the state to create an organizational culture in state government that respects and values individual differences and encourages the productive potential of every employee.

(2) To implement this policy:

(a) The office of financial management shall, in consultation with agencies, employee organizations, employees, institutions of higher education, and related boards, review civil service rules and related policies to ensure that they support the state's policy of valuing and managing diversity in the workplace; and

(b) The department of enterprise services, in consultation with agencies, employee organizations, and employees, institutions of higher education, and related boards, develop training programs for all managers to enhance their ability to implement diversity policies and to provide a thorough grounding in all aspects of the state civil service law and merit system rules, and how the proper implementation

and application thereof can facilitate and further the mission of the agency.

(3) The department of enterprise services and the office of financial management shall coordinate implementation of this section with the institutions of higher education and related boards to reduce duplication of effort. [2011 1st sp.s. c 43 s 429; 1993 c 281 s 12.]

Effective date—Purpose—2011 1st sp.s. c 43: See notes following RCW 43.19.003.

Effective date—1993 c 281: See note following RCW 41.06.022.

RCW 41.06.540 Joint employee-management committees. Meaningful and effective involvement of employees and their representatives is essential to the efficient and effective delivery of state government services. To accomplish this, agencies shall use joint employee-management committees to collaborate on the desired goals of streamlined organizational structures, continuous improvement in all systems and processes, empowerment of line level employees to solve workplace and system delivery problems, managers functioning as coaches and facilitators, and employee training and development as an investment in the future. If employees are represented by an exclusive bargaining representative, the representative shall select the employee committee members and also be on the committee. In addition, the committees shall be used for improvement of the quality of work life for state employees resulting in more productive and efficient service delivery to the general public and customers of state government. Nothing in this section supplants any collective bargaining process or provision. [1993 c 281 s 13.]

Effective date—1993 c 281: See note following RCW 41.06.022.

RCW 41.06.550 Volunteer firefighters—Call to duty. An agency must allow an employee who is a volunteer firefighter to respond, without pay, to a fire, natural disaster, or medical emergency when called to duty. The agency may choose to grant leave with pay. [2007 c 112 s 1.]

RCW 41.06.560 Monetary performance-based awards or incentives—Restrictions. From February 15, 2010, until June 30, 2013, no monetary performance-based awards or incentives may be granted by the director or employers to employees covered by rules adopted under this section. This section does not prohibit the payment of awards provided for in chapter 41.60 RCW. For institutions of higher education, this section does not prohibit the payment of specific cash awards from private donations from individuals or businesses including, but not limited to, endowments.

From July 1, 2011, until June 30, 2013, no performance-based awards or incentives may be granted by the director or employers to employees pursuant to a performance management confirmation granted by the department of personnel under WAC 357-37-055. [2012 2nd sp.s. c 7 s 916; 2011 1st sp.s. c 39 s 11; 2010 c 2 s 6.]

Effective date—2012 2nd sp.s. c 7: See note following RCW 2.68.020.

Effective date—2011 1st sp.s. c 39: See note following RCW 41.04.820.

Findings—Effective date—2010 c 2: See notes following RCW 41.06.070.

RCW 41.06.570 Executive agencies—Paid leave for life-giving procedures—Limitations—Intent—Definition. (1) All executive agencies shall allow employees to take paid leave, not to exceed thirty days in a two-year period, as needed to participate in life-giving procedures. Such leave shall not be charged against sick leave or annual leave, and use of leave without pay is not required.

(2) Agencies may take into account program implementation and staffing replacement requirements in the scheduling of such leave time. Employees may be required to provide reasonable advance notice of a desire to take paid leave time under this section.

(3) When planning for and granting paid leave under this section, agencies shall take into account provisions of collective bargaining agreements that cover leave usage. Any additional leave time needed for life-giving procedures is subject to each agency's leave policies and collective bargaining agreements.

(4) Employees must provide written proof from an accredited medical institution, physician, or other medical professional that the employee participated in a life-giving procedure.

(5) This section does not create any entitlement or other right that may be converted to cash, other compensation, or any other benefit. It is intended only to encourage altruistic life-giving procedures, and to allow paid leave to participate in such procedures.

(6) Agencies may continue or implement any informal, flextime, ad hoc, or other leave.

(7) For purposes of this section, "life-giving procedure" means a medically supervised procedure involving the testing, sampling, or donation of organs, tissues, and other human body components for the purposes of donation, without compensation, to a person or organization for medically necessary treatments. "Life-giving procedure" does not include the donation of blood or plasma. [2020 c 305 s 1.]

RCW 41.06.580 Energy facility site evaluation council—Certain personnel exempted from chapter. In addition to the exemptions provided under RCW 41.06.070, the provisions of this chapter do not apply to the following positions at the energy facility site evaluation council: The director; the personal secretary to the director and the council chair; and up to two professional staff members. [2022 c 183 s 14.]

Effective date—2022 c 183: See note following RCW 80.50.010.

RCW 41.06.900 Short title. This chapter shall be referred to as the state civil service law. [1961 c 1 s 34 (Initiative Measure No. 207, approved November 8, 1960).]

RCW 41.06.912 Construction—Chapter applicable to state registered domestic partnerships—2009 c 521. For the purposes of this chapter, the terms spouse, marriage, marital, husband, wife, widow, widower, next of kin, and family shall be interpreted as applying equally to state registered domestic partnerships or individuals in state registered domestic partnerships as well as to marital relationships and married persons, and references to dissolution of marriage shall apply equally to state registered domestic partnerships that have been terminated, dissolved, or invalidated, to the extent that such interpretation does not conflict with federal law. Where necessary to implement chapter 521, Laws of 2009, gender-specific terms such as husband and wife used in any statute, rule, or other law shall be construed to be gender neutral, and applicable to individuals in state registered domestic partnerships. [2009 c 521 s 86.]