

HOUSE BILL NO. 251

INTRODUCED BY J. ESSMANN, J. SESSO

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A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT PROVIDING FOR TEMPORARY LEGISLATIVE AIDES; PROVIDING EXCEPTIONS TO CERTAIN STATE BENEFITS; AMENDING SECTIONS 2-2-302, 2-18-103, AND 19-3-111, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE."

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

NEW SECTION. **Section 1. Temporary legislative aide -- definition.** (1) The presiding officers and minority leaders of the house and senate may each hire temporary legislative aides.

- (2) A temporary legislative aide:
 - (a) is designated as temporary for a period of time not to exceed 24 months;
 - (b) may perform temporary duties or permanent duties on a temporary basis;
 - (c) is not eligible to become a permanent employee in this position or by linking or combining succeeding periods as a temporary legislative aide;
 - (d) may be terminated at the will of the employer or may be reappointed for another temporary legislative aide position;
 - (e) is not eligible to earn the leave and holiday benefits provided in Title 2, chapter 18, part 6; and
 - (f) is not eligible for membership in the public employees' retirement system established in 19-3-103.

(3) A temporary legislative aide who is regularly scheduled to work 6 months or more in a year and 20 hours or more in a week is eligible to purchase group insurance benefits provided in Title 2, chapter 18, part 7, at the aide's own expense without employer contribution UNLESS AN EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTION IS REQUIRED BY APPLICABLE FEDERAL LAW.

SECTION 2. SECTION 2-2-302, MCA, IS AMENDED TO READ:

"2-2-302. Appointment of relative to office of trust or emolument unlawful -- exceptions -- publication of notice. (1) Except as provided in subsection (2), it is unlawful for a person or member of any board, bureau, or commission or employee at the head of a department of this state or any political subdivision of this state to appoint to any position of trust or emolument any person related or connected by consanguinity



1 within the fourth degree or by affinity within the second degree.

2 (2) The provisions of 2-2-303 and this section do not apply to:

3 (a) a sheriff in the appointment of a person as a cook or an attendant;

4 (b) school district trustees if all the trustees, with the exception of any trustee who is related to the person
5 being appointed and who must abstain from voting for the appointment, approve the appointment of a person
6 related to a trustee;

7 (c) a school district in the employment of a person as a substitute teacher who is not employed as a
8 substitute teacher for more than 30 consecutive school days as defined by the trustees in 20-1-302;

9 (d) the renewal of an employment contract of a person who was initially hired before the member of the
10 board, bureau, or commission or the department head to whom the person is related assumed the duties of the
11 office;

12 (e) the employment of election judges;

13 (f) the employment of pages or temporary session staff by the legislature; or

14 (g) county commissioners of a county with a population of less than 10,000 if all the commissioners, with
15 the exception of any commissioner who is related to the person being appointed and who must abstain from
16 voting for the appointment, approve the appointment of a person related to a commissioner.

17 (3) The provisions of 2-2-303 and this section apply to a temporary legislative aide provided for in
18 [section 1].

19 ~~(3)~~(4) Prior to the appointment of a person referred to in subsection (2)(b) or (2)(g), written notice of the
20 time and place for the intended action must be published at least 15 days prior to the intended action in a
21 newspaper of general circulation in the county in which the school district is located or the county office or position
22 is located."

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24 **Section 3.** Section 2-18-103, MCA, is amended to read:

25 **"2-18-103. Officers and employees excepted.** Parts 1 through 3 and 10 do not apply to the following
26 officers and employees in state government:

27 (1) elected officials;

28 (2) county assessors and their chief deputies;

29 (3) employees of the office of consumer counsel;

30 (4) judges and employees of the judicial branch;

- 1 (5) members of boards and commissions appointed by the governor, the legislature, or other elected
2 state officials;
- 3 (6) officers or members of the militia;
- 4 (7) agency heads appointed by the governor;
- 5 (8) academic and professional administrative personnel with individual contracts under the authority of
6 the board of regents of higher education;
- 7 (9) academic and professional administrative personnel and live-in houseparents who have entered into
8 individual contracts with the state school for the deaf and blind under the authority of the state board of public
9 education;
- 10 (10) investment officer, assistant investment officer, executive director, and five professional staff
11 positions of the board of investments;
- 12 (11) four professional staff positions under the board of oil and gas conservation;
- 13 (12) assistant director for security of the Montana state lottery;
- 14 (13) executive director and employees of the state compensation insurance fund;
- 15 (14) state racing stewards employed by the executive secretary of the Montana board of horseracing;
- 16 (15) executive director of the Montana wheat and barley committee;
- 17 (16) commissioner of banking and financial institutions;
- 18 (17) training coordinator for county attorneys;
- 19 (18) employees of an entity of the legislative branch consolidated, as provided in 5-2-504, or temporary
20 legislative aides as provided in [section 1];
- 21 (19) chief information officer in the department of administration;
- 22 (20) chief business development officer and six professional staff positions in the office of economic
23 development provided for in 2-15-218;
- 24 (21) chief public defender appointed by the public defender commission pursuant to the Montana Public
25 Defender Act, Title 47, chapter 1, and the employees in the positions listed in 47-1-201(3)(a), who are appointed
26 by the chief public defender; and
- 27 (22) chief appellate defender in the office of appellate defender."
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29 **Section 4.** Section 19-3-111, MCA, is amended to read:

30 **"19-3-111. Exemption for certain university temporary employees -- "temporary employee"**

1 **defined.** (1) This chapter does not apply to a temporary employee ~~of the university system.~~

2 (2) As used in this section, "temporary employee" means:

3 (a) a temporary legislative aide hired pursuant to [section 1]; or

4 (b) an employee of the university system who is hired into a position that is not permanent and who has
5 negotiated an alternative benefits package through a labor organization certified to represent employees of the
6 university system pursuant to Title 39, chapter 31. The employer contribution to the alternative benefits package
7 may not exceed the cost of the benefits that the employee would otherwise be entitled to through employment."

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9 NEW SECTION. Section 5. Effective date. [This act] is effective on passage and approval.

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