

## S.F. No. 475 - Whistleblower Protections for Public Employees (1<sup>st</sup> Engrossment)

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**S.F.** 475 modifies protections for public employees within the Minnesota Whistleblower Act.

**Sections 1 to 3** provide definitions for the terms "abuse," "fraud," and "waste" for purposes of the whistleblower law. These definitions closely mirror the definitions found in section 121A.27, applicable to the Department of Education and the Office of Inspector General.

Section 4 [Prohibited Actions; section 181.932, subd. 1] makes two changes to employee protections against retaliation or discrimination for specified conduct.

First, the bill extends protections to all public employees, from just employees in the classified service in state government, for communicating information related to public services to a legislator, legislative auditor, or a constitutional officer.

Second, the bill adds a new category of protection. A public employee's good faith reporting of fraud, waste, or abuse, when reported to the employer, any governmental body, law enforcement official, the legislative auditor, a member of the legislature, or a constitutional officer is protected from retaliation or discrimination by their employer.