

CERTIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT

**HOUSE BILL 2449**

56th Legislature  
2000 Regular Session

Passed by the House March 5, 2000  
Yeas 80 Nays 1

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**Speaker of the House of Representatives**

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**Speaker of the House of Representatives**

Passed by the Senate March 3, 2000  
Yeas 46 Nays 0

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**President of the Senate**

Approved

\_\_\_\_\_  
Governor of the State of Washington

CERTIFICATE

We, Timothy A. Martin and Cynthia Zehnder, Co-Chief Clerks of the House of Representatives of the State of Washington, do hereby certify that the attached is **HOUSE BILL 2449** as passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate on the dates hereon set forth.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Chief Clerk**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Chief Clerk**

FILED

**Secretary of State  
State of Washington**

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HOUSE BILL 2449

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Passed Legislature - 2000 Regular Session

AS AMENDED BY THE SENATE

State of Washington                      56th Legislature                      2000 Regular Session

By Representatives Pennington, Constantine and Mitchell

Read first time 01/13/2000. Referred to Committee on State Government.

1            AN ACT Relating to ethics board staff review of ethics complaints;  
2 amending RCW 42.52.420; and adding a new section to chapter 42.52 RCW.

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

4            **Sec. 1.** RCW 42.52.420 and 1994 c 154 s 212 are each amended to  
5 read as follows:

6            (1) After the filing of any complaint, except as provided in RCW  
7 42.52.450, the staff of the appropriate ethics board shall investigate  
8 the complaint. The investigation shall be limited to the ~~((alleged~~  
9 ~~facts))~~ allegations contained in the complaint.

10           (2) The results of the investigation shall be reduced to writing  
11 and the staff shall either make a determination ~~((shall be made))~~ that  
12 the complaint should be dismissed pursuant to section 2 of this act, or  
13 recommend to the board that there is or that there is not reasonable  
14 cause to believe that a violation of this chapter or rules adopted  
15 under it has been or is being committed.

16           ~~((A copy of the written))~~ (3) The board's determination on  
17 reasonable cause shall be provided to the complainant and to the person  
18 named in such complaint.

1        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 2.**    A new section is added to chapter 42.52 RCW  
2 to read as follows:

3        (1) Based on the investigation conducted under RCW 42.52.420, and  
4 subject to rules issued by each board, the staff of the appropriate  
5 ethics board may issue an order of dismissal based on any of the  
6 following findings:

7        (a) Any violation that may have occurred is not within the  
8 jurisdiction of the board;

9        (b) The complaint is obviously unfounded or frivolous; or

10       (c) Any violation that may have occurred does not constitute a  
11 material violation because it was inadvertent and minor, or has been  
12 cured, and, after consideration of all of the circumstances, further  
13 proceedings would not serve the purposes of this chapter.

14       (2) Written notice of the determination under subsection (1) of  
15 this section shall be provided to the complainant, respondent, and the  
16 board. The written notice to the complainant shall include a statement  
17 of the complainant's right to appeal to the board under subsection (3)  
18 of this section.

19       (3) In the event that a complaint is dismissed under this section,  
20 the complainant may request that the board review the action.  
21 Following review, the board shall:

22       (a) Affirm the staff dismissal;

23       (b) Direct the staff to conduct further investigation; or

24       (c) Issue a determination that there is reasonable cause to believe  
25 that a violation has been or is being committed.

26       (4) The board's decision under subsection (3) of this section shall  
27 be reduced to writing and provided to the complainant and the  
28 respondent.

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