

CERTIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT

SENATE BILL 5046

Chapter 116, Laws of 2005

59th Legislature
2005 Regular Session

ETHICS COMPLAINTS

EFFECTIVE DATE: 7/24/05

Passed by the Senate February 23, 2005
YEAS 46 NAYS 0

BRAD OWEN

President of the Senate

Passed by the House April 5, 2005
YEAS 94 NAYS 0

FRANK CHOPP

Speaker of the House of Representatives

Approved April 21, 2005.

CERTIFICATE

I, Thomas Hoemann, Secretary of the Senate of the State of Washington, do hereby certify that the attached is **SENATE BILL 5046** as passed by the Senate and the House of Representatives on the dates hereon set forth.

THOMAS HOEMANN

Secretary

FILED

April 21, 2005 - 3:34 p.m.

CHRISTINE GREGOIRE

Governor of the State of Washington

**Secretary of State
State of Washington**

SENATE BILL 5046

Passed Legislature - 2005 Regular Session

State of Washington 59th Legislature 2005 Regular Session

By Senators Regala and Johnson; by request of Legislative Ethics Board

Read first time 01/12/2005. Referred to Committee on Government Operations & Elections.

1 AN ACT Relating to ethics complaints; and amending RCW 42.52.425
2 and 42.52.450.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 42.52.425 and 2000 c 211 s 2 are each amended to read
5 as follows:

6 (1) Based on the investigation conducted under RCW 42.52.420 or
7 42.52.450, and subject to rules issued by each board, the board or the
8 staff of the appropriate ethics board may issue an order of dismissal
9 based on any of the following findings:

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

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

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

17 (2) Written notice of the determination under subsection (1) of
18 this section shall be provided to the complainant, respondent, and the

1 board. The written notice to the complainant shall include a statement
2 of the complainant's right to appeal to the board under subsection (3)
3 of this section if the dismissal order was issued by staff.

4 (3) In the event that a complaint is dismissed by staff under this
5 section, the complainant may request that the board review the action.
6 Following review, the board shall:

- 7 (a) Affirm the staff dismissal;
- 8 (b) Direct the staff to conduct further investigation; or
- 9 (c) Issue a determination that there is reasonable cause to believe
10 that a violation has been or is being committed.

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

14 **Sec. 2.** RCW 42.52.450 and 1994 c 154 s 215 are each amended to
15 read as follows:

16 (1) If a complaint alleges a violation of RCW 42.52.180 by a
17 legislator or statewide elected official other than the attorney
18 general, the attorney general shall, if requested by the appropriate
19 ethics board, conduct the investigation under RCW 42.52.420 and
20 recommend action (~~(to the appropriate ethics board)~~).

21 (2) If a complaint alleges a violation of RCW 42.52.180 by the
22 attorney general, the state auditor shall conduct the investigation
23 under RCW 42.52.420 and recommend action to the appropriate ethics
24 board.

Passed by the Senate February 23, 2005.
Passed by the House April 5, 2005.
Approved by the Governor April 21, 2005.
Filed in Office of Secretary of State April 21, 2005.