
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6255

State of Washington

64th Legislature

2016 Regular Session

By Senate Law & Justice (originally sponsored by Senators Sheldon, Rivers, Roach, Becker, Bailey, Miloscia, Warnick, Honeyford, Braun, Schoesler, O'Ban, and Hewitt)

READ FIRST TIME 02/05/16.

1 AN ACT Relating to judge impartiality; adding a new section to
2 chapter 2.64 RCW; and providing an effective date.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 2.64 RCW
5 to read as follows:

6 (1) The legislature respectfully requests that the commission
7 adopt new rules implementing the policy in subsection (2) of this
8 section to protect the integrity of the judicial process and promote
9 public confidence in the courts.

10 (2) It is the policy of the commission to discipline any judge
11 who fails to disqualify himself or herself in any proceeding in which
12 the judge's impartiality might reasonably be questioned because:

13 (a) The judge knows or learns by means of a timely motion that a
14 party, a party's lawyer, or the law firm of a party's lawyer has
15 within the previous three years made aggregate contributions to the
16 judge's election in an amount that is greater than one thousand
17 dollars; or

18 (b) When a party or lawyer who made a contribution of one
19 thousand dollars or more to the judge's campaign appears in a case,
20 the judge failed to disclose the contribution to the parties. The

1 requirement to disclose shall continue from the time the judge begins
2 a campaign until one hundred eighty days after the judge's election.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** This act takes effect January 1, 2017.

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