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1

Code of Ethics

2 (~~Rule 1.~~ Rules 2 through 7 of these Joint Rules constitute a
3 Code of Legislative Ethics which shall be administered under the
4 provisions of RCW 44.60.010 through 44.60.130. Disciplinary actions
5 for violation include: In the case of a legislator, reprimand, censure,
6 or expulsion, and when applicable, restitution; and in the case of a
7 legislative employee, reprimand, suspension, or dismissal, and when
8 applicable, restitution.

9

Legislative Conflict of Interest

10 **Rule 2.** A legislator has a personal interest which is in
11 conflict with the proper discharge of legislative duties if the
12 legislator has reason to believe or expect that a direct monetary gain
13 or a direct monetary loss will be derived by reason of the legislator's
14 official activity.

15 However, a legislator does not have a personal interest which is in
16 conflict with the proper discharge of legislative duties if no benefit
17 or detriment accrues to the legislator as a member of a business,
18 profession, occupation, or group, to a greater extent than to any other
19 member of such business, profession, occupation, or group.

20

Independence of Legislative Judgment

21 **Rule 3.** Actions which destroy public confidence in the
22 independence of judgment of a legislator:

23 Section 1. A legislator shall not vote on or influence legislation
24 in committee or on the floor of either house, where the legislator has
25 a personal interest which is in conflict with the proper discharge of
26 legislative duties.

27 Section 2. A legislator shall not accept any gratuity or
28 compensation for services rendered in connection with legislative
29 employment other than legislative salary.

1 ~~or opposition to any ballot proposition. Facilities of the legislature~~
2 ~~include, but are not limited to, use of stationery, postage machines,~~
3 ~~and equipment, use of employees of the legislature during working~~
4 ~~hours, vehicles, office space, publications of the legislature, and~~
5 ~~constituent, interest group, or lobbyist lists of persons developed by~~
6 ~~the legislature.~~

7 ~~Section 2. No legislative caucus or political organization of~~
8 ~~legislators or legislative leadership may conduct a political fund-~~
9 ~~raising event during the period the legislature is convened in regular~~
10 ~~or special session.~~

11 ~~Section 3. No retaliation shall be permitted against any~~
12 ~~legislative employee who in good faith cooperates or has cooperated~~
13 ~~with the public disclosure commission in bringing to light potential~~
14 ~~violations of law or legislative policy.)~~

15 Rule 1. Rules 1 through 5 of these joint rules constitute the
16 ethics rules of the legislature. These rules incorporate the
17 provisions of RCW 42.52.010 through 42.52.190. These rules may be
18 administered by the legislative ethics board or by the senate or the
19 house of representatives. Violations are subject to sanctions imposed
20 by the board and/or disciplinary action by the senate or the house of
21 representatives.

22 Personal Interest of a Legislator

23 Rule 2. Section 1. A legislator does not have a personal
24 interest that is in conflict with the proper discharge of legislative
25 duties if no benefit or detriment accrues to the legislator as a member
26 of a business, profession, occupation, or group, to a greater extent
27 than to any other member of such business, profession, occupation, or
28 group.

29 Section 2. A legislator shall not vote on or influence legislation
30 in committee or on the floor of either house, where the legislator has
31 a personal interest as defined in this rule. A ruling by the presiding
32 officer of either house shall be accepted as a final determination of
33 a question of personal interest for purposes of this section.

1 political committee. No legislative employee, as a condition of
2 becoming or remaining employed, may directly or indirectly be required
3 to make any contribution to a political candidate, committee, or party.

4 Section 3. No legislative caucus or political organization of
5 legislators or legislative leadership may conduct political fundraising
6 during the period the legislature is convened in regular or special
7 session.

8 Section 4. No retaliation shall be permitted against any
9 legislative employee who in good faith cooperates or has cooperated
10 with the public disclosure commission in bringing to light potential
11 violations of law or legislative policy.

12 **Legislative Questionnaires**

13 **Rule ((8)) 6.** The use of public funds by a legislator or
14 legislative committee for mailed questionnaires is authorized only when
15 the following criteria are met:

16 (1) The questionnaire is authorized by a legislator, and
17 confined to soliciting opinions or facts relative to legislative issues
18 or studies;

19 (2) The identity of the legislator or legislative committee
20 sponsoring the questionnaire is disclosed on the questionnaire;

21 (3) Except as otherwise provided in this section, a legislator
22 may authorize mailing of a questionnaire at any time.

23 During the twelve-month period preceding the expiration of a state
24 legislator's term in office, mass mailing of a questionnaire is allowed
25 only if it is included in the identical newsletter to constituents
26 permitted at the beginning of a legislative session under RCW
27 42.17.132.

28 In any year in which a legislator is a candidate for another public
29 office, no questionnaire may be sponsored by or on behalf of such
30 legislator during the period between June 1st and the general election
31 day of that year or, in the event of a special election, no
32 questionnaire may be sponsored by or on behalf of such legislator
33 during the period between either sixty days prior to the election or
34 the date of the filing of the legislator for the office subject to
35 special election, whichever occurs last, and the special election.

1 A legislative committee may authorize a questionnaire at any time
2 if the questionnaire conforms to subsections (1), (2), and (4) of this
3 rule; and

4 (4) The questionnaire complies with all other pertinent laws and
5 rules.

6 ~~((Study of Separation of Legislative from Electoral Activities~~

7 ~~Rule 9. The executive rules committee of the house of~~
8 ~~representatives and the facilities and operations committee of the~~
9 ~~senate shall cause a joint study to be undertaken and completed prior~~
10 ~~to December 31, 1993, bearing on the separation of legislative from~~
11 ~~electoral activities, including:~~

12 ~~Section 1. Prohibiting legislative employees from recruiting or~~
13 ~~campaigning for legislative candidates.~~

14 ~~Section 2. Preventing benefits from being paid to employees on~~
15 ~~leave without pay for purposes of campaigning.~~

16 ~~Section 3. Removing the block-out of the last four digits for~~
17 ~~members' telephone records.~~

18 ~~Section 4. Reviewing all partisan staff positions to determine~~
19 ~~which require partisan affiliation and which should be converted to~~
20 ~~nonpartisan.~~

21 ~~Section 5. Reviewing whether additional or more specific~~
22 ~~disciplinary procedures are required for violations of the Joint~~
23 ~~Standards of Conduct Regarding Use of Public Facilities.~~

24 ~~Section 6. Reviewing the appropriate employment status of~~
25 ~~legislative employees who become candidates for legislative or state-~~
26 ~~wide elective office.))~~

27 **Sessions of the Legislature**

28 **Rule ((10)) 7.** The sessions of the legislature shall be held
29 annually, convening at 12:00 o'clock noon on the second Monday of
30 January each year, as provided by RCW 44.04.010 in accordance with Art.
31 2, section 12 of the state Constitution.

1

Joint Session

2 **Rule ((11)) 8.** Whenever there shall be a joint session of the two
3 houses, the proceedings shall be entered at length upon the journal of
4 each house. The lieutenant governor or president of the senate shall
5 preside over such joint session, and the clerk of the house shall act
6 as the clerk thereof, except in the case of the joint session held for
7 the purpose of canvassing the votes of constitutional elective state
8 officers, when the speaker shall preside over such joint sessions. The
9 lieutenant governor in no case shall have the right to give the
10 deciding vote.

11

Motions for Joint Session

12 **Rule ((12)) 9.** All motions for a joint session shall be made by
13 concurrent resolution to be introduced by the house in which such joint
14 session is to be held; and when an agreement has once been made, it
15 shall not be altered or annulled, except by concurrent resolution.

16

Business Limited

17 **Rule ((13)) 10.** No business shall be considered in joint session
18 other than that which may be agreed upon before the joint session is
19 called.

20

Joint Legislative Committees

21 **Rule ((14)) 11.** Joint legislative committees may be created by
22 concurrent resolution originating in either house and passed by a
23 majority vote of both houses.

24 Joint legislative committees may have the powers of subpoena, the
25 power to administer oaths, and the power to issue commissions for the
26 examination of witnesses in accordance with the provisions of chapter
27 44.16 RCW. Before a joint legislative committee may issue any process,
28 the committee chairperson shall submit for approval of both the

1 executive rules committee of the house of representatives and the rules
2 committee of the senate, a statement of purpose setting forth the name
3 or names of those subject to process. The process shall not be issued
4 prior to approval by both the executive rules committee of the house of
5 representatives and the rules committee of the senate. The process
6 shall be limited to the named individuals.

7 **Joint Committee Hearings**

8 **Rule ((15)) 12.** All public hearings held by joint committees or
9 held jointly by house of representatives and senate standing committees
10 shall be scheduled in accordance with the public notice requirements of
11 both the senate and the house of representatives.

12 **Joint and Concurrent Resolutions; Memorials**

13 **Rule ((16)) 13.** All memorials and resolutions from the legislature
14 addressed to the President of the United States, to the Congress or
15 either house thereof, to any other branch of the Federal government, to
16 any other branch of state government, or to any unit of local
17 government shall be in the form of joint memorials. Proposed
18 amendments to the state Constitution shall be in the form of joint
19 resolutions. Business between the two houses such as joint sessions,
20 amendments to redistricting plans submitted by a redistricting
21 commission created under chapter 44.05 RCW, adopting or amending joint
22 rules, creating or empowering joint committees, opening and closing
23 business of the legislature and all such related matters shall be in
24 the form of concurrent resolutions. Joint memorials, joint
25 resolutions, and concurrent resolutions, up to and including the
26 signing thereof by the presiding officer of each house, shall be
27 subject to the rules governing the course of bills. Concurrent
28 resolutions may be adopted without a roll call. Concurrent resolutions
29 amending a redistricting plan submitted by a redistricting commission,
30 authorizing investigations or authorizing the expenditure or allocation
31 of any money or relating to any joint committee must be adopted by roll
32 call, and the yeas and nays recorded in the journal. Concurrent

1 resolutions amending a redistricting plan as well as all amendments to
2 those resolutions must be agreed to by two-thirds of the members
3 elected or appointed to each house.

4 **Amendatory Bills**

5 **Rule ((17)) 14**. All amendatory bills shall refer to the section or
6 sections of the official codes and statutes of Washington, and
7 supplements thereto and to the respective Session Laws, to be amended.

8 **Amendatory Bills, How Drawn**

9 **Rule ((18)) 15**. Bills introduced in either house intended to amend
10 existing statutes shall have the words which are amendatory to such
11 existing statutes underlined. Any matter to be deleted from the
12 existing statutes shall be indicated by lining out such matter with a
13 broken line and enclosing the lined out material within double
14 parentheses, and no bill shall be printed or acted upon until the
15 provisions of this rule shall have been complied with.

16 New sections need not be underlined but shall be designated "NEW
17 SECTION." in upper case type and such designation shall be underlined.

18 No bill shall be introduced by title only, and, in the event a bill
19 is not complete, at least section 1 shall be set forth in full before
20 the bill may be accepted for introduction.

21 Amendments to bills will be acted upon in the manner provided in
22 the Rules of the Senate and in the Rules of the House. No amendment to
23 a bill shall be considered which strikes the entire subject matter of
24 a bill, and substitutes in lieu thereof entirely new subject matter not
25 germane to the original or engrossed bill.

26 **Amendments to State Constitution; Action by Legislature**

27 **Rule ((19)) 16**. Amendments to the state Constitution may be
28 proposed in either branch of the legislature by joint resolution; and

1 if the same shall be agreed to by two-thirds of the members elected to
2 each of the two houses, such proposed amendment or amendments shall be
3 entered on their respective journals with the ayes and nays thereon.
4 (Const., art. 23, sec. 1.)

5 **Publicity of Proposed Amendments to State Constitution**

6 **Rule ((20)) 17.** The legislature shall provide methods of publicity
7 of all laws or parts of laws, and amendments to the Constitution
8 referred to the people with arguments for and against the laws and
9 amendments so referred, so that each voter of the state shall receive
10 the publication as soon as possible before the election at which they
11 are to be voted upon. (Const., art. 2, sec. 1e.)

12 **Initiative Petition Before the Legislature**

13 **Rule ((21)) 18.** Initiative petitions filed with the secretary of
14 state not less than ten days before any regular session of the
15 legislature shall take precedence over all other measures in the
16 legislature except appropriation bills and shall be either enacted or
17 rejected without change or amendment by the legislature before the end
18 of such regular session. Upon certification from the secretary of
19 state that an initiative to the legislature has received sufficient
20 valid signatures, the secretary of state shall submit certified copies
21 of the said initiative to the state senate and the house of
22 representatives. Upon receipt of said initiative, each body of the
23 legislature through its presiding officers shall refer the certified
24 copies of the initiative to a proper committee.

25 Upon receipt of a committee report on an initiative to the
26 legislature, each house shall treat the measure in the same manner as
27 bills, memorials and resolutions, except that initiatives cannot be
28 placed on the calendar for amendment. After the action of each body
29 has been recorded on the final passage or any other action by
30 resolution or otherwise which may refer the initiative to the people
31 has been recorded, the president and secretary of the senate and the
32 speaker and chief clerk of the house will certify, each for its own

1 body, to the secretary of state the action taken. (Const., art. 2,
2 sec. 1a.)

3 **Conference Committee**

4 **Rule ((22)) 19. Section 1.** In every case of difference between
5 the two houses, upon any subject of legislation, either house may
6 request a conference and appoint a committee of three for that purpose,
7 and the other house may grant the request for a conference and appoint
8 a like committee to confer. The committees, at the earliest possible
9 hour, shall confer upon the differences between the two houses
10 indicated by the amendment or amendments adopted in one house and
11 rejected in the other.

12 Section 2. Conference committee deliberations shall be conducted
13 in a manner consistent with the provisions of Senate Rule 45(3) and
14 House Rule 24(8) applicable to deliberations of standing committees.

15 Section 3. Public notice of a conference committee meeting shall
16 be given by the secretary of the senate, for house bills, and the chief
17 clerk of the house of representatives, for senate bills, prior to the
18 convening of the meeting as follows:

19 (1) By posting a written notice in the following locations:

20 (a) The office of the secretary or clerk, as appropriate;

21 (b) Near the doors of the appropriate chamber;

22 (c) The legislative bill room; or

23 (d) The public legislative message center.

24 (2) By announcing meetings during sessions of the senate and
25 house of representatives; or

26 (3) By posting meeting notices on the legislature's electronic
27 mail system.

28 Section 4. The papers shall be left with the conferees of the
29 house if a senate bill, and with the conferees of the senate, if a
30 house bill, and the holders of the papers shall first present the
31 report of the committee to their house. Every report of a conference
32 committee must have the signatures of a majority of the conference
33 committee members of each house. Conference committee reports must be
34 signed at a meeting duly convened by the chief clerk of the house for
35 senate bills or the secretary of the senate for house bills.

1

Conference Committee Appointees

2 **Rule ((23)) 20.** The presiding officer of each house shall appoint
3 on each conference committee three members, selecting them so as to
4 represent, in each case, the majority and minority positions to the
5 extent possible as relates to the subject matter, and the majority and
6 minority political parties.

7

Failure to Agree

8 **Rule ((24)) 21.** In case of failure of the conferees to agree on
9 matters directly at issue between the two houses, the committee may in
10 addition consider new proposed items within the scope and object of the
11 bill in conference. A report proposing new items shall include all
12 amendments to the bill or resolution agreed upon by the conference
13 committee. The proposed report may be in the form of a new bill or
14 resolution and such report must have the signatures of a majority of
15 the members of the committee appointed from each house.

16

Report of Conference Committee, How

17

Made Out; Whom Returned to

18 **Rule ((25)) 22.** The conference committee shall submit the bill as
19 amended together with three signed copies of its report to the house if
20 a senate bill, and to the senate, if a house bill. A copy of the
21 report shall be placed upon the desk of each member of the legislature
22 at the time the report is received by this house. If this house acts
23 to approve the report and pass the bill as amended, it shall then
24 transmit its action, the bill, and two copies of the report to the
25 other house.

26

Adoption of Reports

1 **Rule ((28)) 25.** Any bill amended in the house of its origin shall
2 be engrossed before being transmitted to the other house. The
3 secretary or clerk of the receiving house, as the case may be, may
4 waive the right to receive an engrossed bill.

5 **Final Action on Bills, How Communicated**

6 **Rule ((29)) 26.** Each house shall communicate its final action on
7 any bill or resolution, or matter in which the other may be interested,
8 in writing, signed by the secretary or clerk of the house from which
9 such notice is sent.

10 **Enrolled Bills - Presiding Officer to Sign**

11 **Rule ((30)) 27.** After a bill shall have passed both houses and all
12 amendments have been engrossed therein, it shall be signed by the
13 presiding officer of each house in open session, first in the house in
14 which it originated. The secretary of the senate or the chief clerk of
15 the house shall present the original bill to the governor for
16 signature.

17 **Disposition of Enrolled Bills**

18 **Rule ((31)) 28.** Whenever any bill shall have passed both houses,
19 the house transmitting the bill in its final form to the governor shall
20 also file with the secretary of state a copy of the bill together with
21 the history of such bill up to the time of transmission to the
22 governor.

23 **Adjournment**

24 **Rule ((32)) 29.** Neither house shall adjourn for more than three
25 days, nor to any place other than that in which they may be sitting,
26 without the consent of the other. (Const., art. 2, sec. 11.)

1

Adjournment Sine Die

2 **Rule ((33)) 30.** Adjournment sine die shall be made only by
3 concurrent resolution.

4

Each House Judge of Its Own Membership

5 **Rule ((34)) 31.** Each house of the legislature is the judge of the
6 qualifications and election of its members, and shall try all contested
7 elections of its members in such manner as it may direct. (Const., art.
8 2, sec. 8.)

9

Convening Special Legislative Sessions

10 **Rule ((35)) 32.** The legislature may convene a special legislative
11 session as follows:

12 (1) A resolution calling for convening a special legislative
13 session shall set forth the date and time for convening the session,
14 the duration of the session which shall not exceed thirty days,
15 together with the purpose or purposes for which such session is called.
16 Members of the house or senate may present a proposed resolution for
17 the convening of a special legislative session to the committee on
18 rules of their respective houses.

19 (2) The authority to place a resolution convening a special
20 legislative session before the legislature is vested in the committee
21 on rules of the house of representatives and the committee on rules of
22 the senate.

23 (3) Upon a majority vote of both the committee on rules of the
24 house and the committee on rules of the senate in favor of a resolution
25 convening a special legislative session, a vote of the house and senate
26 shall be taken on such resolution.

27 (4) The chief clerk of the house and the secretary of the senate
28 shall conduct the vote on the resolution by written ballot of the
29 members of their respective houses under such procedures as may be
30 ordered by the committee on rules of their house. The results of such
31 vote shall be transmitted to the members of the legislature and shall

1 be a public record and shall be entered upon the journal of the house
2 and senate at the convening of the next legislative session.

3 (5) If two-thirds of the members elected or appointed to each
4 house vote in favor of the resolution, then a special legislative
5 session shall be convened in accordance with the resolution. (Const.,
6 art. 2, sec. 12.)

7 **Amendments to Joint Rules**

8 **Rule ((36)) 33.** These joint rules may be amended by concurrent
9 resolution agreed to by a majority of the members of each house,
10 provided one day's notice be given of the motion thereof.

11 **Joint Rules to Apply for Biennium**

12 **Rule ((37)) 34.** The permanent joint rules adopted by the
13 legislature shall govern any session called during the same legislative
14 biennium.

--- END ---