
HOUSE BILL 1994

State of Washington

65th Legislature

2017 Regular Session

By Representatives Stambaugh, Barkis, McDonald, and Haler

Read first time 02/06/17. Referred to Committee on State Govt,
Elections & IT.

1 AN ACT Relating to limiting actions of the legislative ethics
2 board during preelection periods; and amending RCW 42.52.320.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 42.52.320 and 1994 c 154 s 202 are each amended to
5 read as follows:

6 (1) The legislative ethics board shall enforce this chapter and
7 rules adopted under it with respect to members and employees of the
8 legislature.

9 (2) The legislative ethics board shall:

10 (a) Develop educational materials and training with regard to
11 legislative ethics for legislators and legislative employees;

12 (b) Issue advisory opinions;

13 (c) Adopt rules or policies governing the conduct of business by
14 the board, and adopt rules defining working hours for purposes of RCW
15 42.52.180 and where otherwise authorized under chapter 154, Laws of
16 1994;

17 (d) Investigate, hear, and determine complaints by any person or
18 on its own motion;

19 (e) Impose sanctions including reprimands and monetary penalties;

1 (f) Recommend suspension or removal to the appropriate
2 legislative entity, or recommend prosecution to the appropriate
3 authority; and

4 (g) Establish criteria regarding the levels of civil penalties
5 appropriate for different types of violations of this chapter and
6 rules adopted under it.

7 (3) The board may:

8 (a) Issue subpoenas for the attendance and testimony of witnesses
9 and the production of documentary evidence relating to any matter
10 under examination by the board or involved in any hearing;

11 (b) Administer oaths and affirmations;

12 (c) Examine witnesses; and

13 (d) Receive evidence.

14 ~~((Subject to RCW 42.52.540, the board has jurisdiction over~~
15 ~~any alleged violation that occurred before January 1, 1995, and that~~
16 ~~was within the jurisdiction of any of the boards established under~~
17 ~~chapter 44.60 RCW. The board's jurisdiction with respect to any such~~
18 ~~alleged violation shall be based on the statutes and rules in effect~~
19 ~~at [the] time of the violation.)) The board may not, during the
20 forty-five day period immediately preceding any primary, through the
21 end of the respective general election, issue reasonable cause
22 determinations or complaint opinions, impose sanctions, or recommend
23 suspension, removal, or prosecution, for a legislator or other
24 candidate for an office to be voted upon at that primary or general
25 election.~~

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