

WAC 262-02-020 Purpose. (1) Certain provisions of chapter 154, Laws of 1994, "Ethics in public service" require interpretation through regulation to protect the Washington state housing finance commission (the "commission") and its commissioners and employees from violations of law. As provided in RCW 42.52.200, the commission may adopt rules consistent with law, for use within the commission.

(2) The legislature intended that commissioners appointed to the commission have experience with and expertise in housing matters, including housing construction and finance, and that they represent various industry and consumer groups. RCW 43.180.040(2). The commission intends that its commissioners actively participate in and lend their expertise to the deliberations of the commission. These regulations are intended to insure that decisions of the commission are based on the expertise and unbiased judgment of these commissioners and not on their self-interest.

(3) The commission issues bonds to provide a secondary market for the financing of housing and nonprofit facilities. As a result, commissioners and commission employees work closely with private sector lenders, underwriters, mortgage bankers, financial advisors, lawyers and accountants. While the commission is regularly engaged in private sector transactions, it is a public entity established by the legislature. The legislature has determined that certain activities that may be common to professional relationships in the private sector may be inappropriate or illegal when conducted by commissioners and commission employees. These regulations are intended to insure that the activities of commissioners and commission staff are consistent with the highest degree of professional conduct for public appointees and employees. Also, these regulations recognize the importance of maintaining public trust in the commission's unbiased expertise and impartial decision making. The regulations are intended to ensure that commissioners and commission staff exercise their discretion in a manner that does not create even a perception of bias.

[Statutory Authority: Chapters 43.180 and 42.52 RCW. WSR 97-16-020, § 262-02-020, filed 7/28/97, effective 8/28/97. Statutory Authority: RCW 42.18.250. WSR 85-18-031 (Resolution No. 85-55), § 262-02-020, filed 8/28/85.]