

**WAC 162-08-072 Complaints issued by commission.** (1) **Who may initiate.** Complaints issued by the commission under RCW 49.60.230 (1)(b) may be initiated by the commissioners or by the executive director personally.

(2) **By commissioners.** Initiation of a complaint by the commissioners shall be by motion at a meeting. The executive director shall transcribe a carried motion from the minutes onto a paper designated "complaint," attest it with a signature, and process it.

(3) **By executive director.** The executive director may initiate a commission complaint by personally signing a document saying that the commission has reason to believe that the person shown as respondent has been engaged or is engaged in an unfair practice, identifying the nature of the unfair practice, and the facts on which it is based. The executive director shall notify each commissioner in advance of issuing a complaint, or if advance notice is not possible because of an emergency, or because a commissioner cannot be reached, or for other reason, the executive director shall give the notice as soon after issuing the complaint as possible. Any commissioner may have placed on the agenda of the next commission meeting the question of whether the complaint shall stand. If this is done, the commissioners shall vote to sustain or rescind the complaint, after such debate and deliberation as is appropriate, but without taking testimony, or hearing arguments or reports from anyone but commissioners and staff, except as the commission by vote may direct.

(4) **Basis for commission complaint.** A commission complaint may be issued when the commission "has reason to believe that any person has been engaged in an unfair practice." RCW 49.60.230(2). The basis of belief for a complaint is different from the basis for a finding under RCW 49.60.240 of "reasonable cause for believing that an unfair practice has been or is being committed." The finding of reasonable cause or not is based on the commission's own investigation and ascertainment of facts after receipt of a complaint. The basis of belief for the purpose of initiating a commission complaint is information from any source sufficient, in the judgment of the commission, to justify an investigation and finding of whether or not there is reasonable cause for believing that an unfair practice has been or is being committed.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 49.60.120(3) and 49.60.240. WSR 96-13-045, § 162-08-072, filed 6/13/96, effective 7/14/96. Statutory Authority: RCW 49.60.120(3). WSR 89-23-020, § 162-08-072, filed 11/7/89, effective 12/8/89; Order 35, § 162-08-072, filed 9/2/77.]