## CERTIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT

#### SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1555

Chapter 432, Laws of 2009

61st Legislature 2009 Regular Session

CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY--UNDERGROUND ECONOMY

EFFECTIVE DATE: 07/26/09 - Except section 11, which becomes effective 10/01/09.

Passed by the House April 23, 2009 Yeas 95 Nays 1

FRANK CHOPP

Speaker of the House of Representatives

Passed by the Senate April 16, 2009 Yeas 31 Nays 16

BRAD OWEN

President of the Senate

Approved May 11, 2009, 2:35 p.m.

CERTIFICATE

I, Barbara Baker, Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives of the State of Washington, do hereby that the attached certify is SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1555 as passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate on the dates hereon set forth.

BARBARA BAKER

Chief Clerk

FILED

May 11, 2009

Secretary of State State of Washington

CHRISTINE GREGOIRE

Governor of the State of Washington

## SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1555

### AS AMENDED BY THE SENATE

Passed Legislature - 2009 Regular Session

# State of Washington 61st Legislature 2009 Regular Session

**By** House Commerce & Labor (originally sponsored by Representatives Conway, Chase, Green, Dickerson, Rolfes, Goodman, Campbell, Morrell, Cody, Simpson, Ormsby, Van De Wege, Seaquist, Appleton, Miloscia, Hunt, Blake, Williams, Hudgins, Kenney, Sullivan, Priest, Eddy, and Wood)

READ FIRST TIME 02/23/09.

AN ACT Relating to the recommendations of the joint legislative 1 2 task force on the underground economy in the construction industry; 3 amending RCW 60.28.021, 60.28.040, 60.28.051, 60.28.060, and 50.12.070; amending 2008 c 120 s 10 (uncodified); reenacting and amending RCW 4 60.28.011; adding a new section to chapter 18.27 RCW; adding a new 5 6 section to chapter 35.21 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 35A.21 7 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 36.01 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 51.04 RCW; creating a new section; prescribing penalties; 8 9 providing an effective date; and providing an expiration date.

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

11 <u>NEW SECTION.</u> Sec. 1. A new section is added to chapter 18.27 RCW 12 to read as follows:

13 A contractor must maintain and have available for inspection by the 14 department a list of all direct subcontractors and a copy of their 15 certificate of registration.

16 <u>NEW SECTION.</u> Sec. 2. A new section is added to chapter 35.21 RCW 17 to read as follows:

18 A city that issues a business license to a person required to be

1 registered under chapter 18.27 RCW may verify that the person is 2 registered under chapter 18.27 RCW and report violations to the 3 department of labor and industries. The department of licensing shall 4 conduct the verification for cities that participate in the master 5 license system.

6 <u>NEW SECTION.</u> Sec. 3. A new section is added to chapter 35A.21 RCW 7 to read as follows:

A city that issues a business license to a person required to be registered under chapter 18.27 RCW may verify that the person is registered under chapter 18.27 RCW and report violations to the department of labor and industries. The department of licensing shall conduct the verification for cities that participate in the master license system.

14 <u>NEW SECTION.</u> **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 36.01 RCW 15 to read as follows:

A county that issues a business license to a person required to be registered under chapter 18.27 RCW may verify that the person is registered under chapter 18.27 RCW and report violations to the department of labor and industries.

20 Sec. 5. RCW 60.28.011 and 2007 c 494 s 504 and 2007 c 218 s 92 are 21 each reenacted and amended to read as follows:

(1) Public improvement contracts shall provide, and public bodies
shall reserve, a contract retainage not to exceed five percent of the
moneys earned by the contractor as a trust fund for the protection and
payment of: (a) The claims of any person arising under the contract;
and (b) the state with respect to taxes imposed pursuant to Title<u>s 50,</u>
<u>51, and</u> 82 RCW which may be due from such contractor.

(2) Every person performing labor or furnishing supplies toward the completion of a public improvement contract shall have a lien upon moneys reserved by a public body under the provisions of a public improvement contract. However, the notice of the lien of the claimant shall be given within forty-five days of completion of the contract work, and in the manner provided in RCW 39.08.030.

34 (3) The contractor at any time may request the contract retainage

be reduced to one hundred percent of the value of the work remaining on
 the project.

3 (a) After completion of all contract work other than landscaping, 4 the contractor may request that the public body release and pay in full 5 the amounts retained during the performance of the contract, and sixty 6 days thereafter the public body must release and pay in full the 7 amounts retained (other than continuing retention of five percent of 8 the moneys earned for landscaping) subject to the provisions of 9 chapters 39.12 and 60.28 RCW.

10 (b) Sixty days after completion of all contract work the public 11 body must release and pay in full the amounts retained during the 12 performance of the contract subject to the provisions of chapters 39.12 13 and 60.28 RCW.

(4) The moneys reserved by a public body under the provisions of a
public improvement contract, at the option of the contractor, shall be:
(a) Retained in a fund by the public body;

(b) Deposited by the public body in an interest bearing account in a bank, mutual savings bank, or savings and loan association. Interest on moneys reserved by a public body under the provision of a public improvement contract shall be paid to the contractor;

21 (c) Placed in escrow with a bank or trust company by the public 22 body. When the moneys reserved are placed in escrow, the public body 23 shall issue a check representing the sum of the moneys reserved payable 24 to the bank or trust company and the contractor jointly. This check 25 shall be converted into bonds and securities chosen by the contractor and approved by the public body and the bonds and securities shall be 26 27 held in escrow. Interest on the bonds and securities shall be paid to the contractor as the interest accrues. 28

(5) The contractor or subcontractor may withhold payment of not 29 30 more than five percent from the moneys earned by any subcontractor or 31 sub-subcontractor or supplier contracted with by the contractor to 32 provide labor, materials, or equipment to the public project. Whenever subcontractor reserves 33 the contractor or funds earned bv а subcontractor or sub-subcontractor or supplier, the contractor or 34 subcontractor shall pay interest to the subcontractor or sub-35 subcontractor or supplier at a rate equal to that received by the 36 37 contractor or subcontractor from reserved funds.

(6) A contractor may submit a bond for all or any portion of the 1 2 contract retainage in a form acceptable to the public body and from a bonding company meeting standards established by the public body. 3 The public body shall accept a bond meeting these requirements unless the 4 public body can demonstrate good cause for refusing to accept it. This 5 bond and any proceeds therefrom are subject to all claims and liens and 6 7 in the same manner and priority as set forth for retained percentages in this chapter. The public body shall release the bonded portion of 8 the retained funds to the contractor within thirty days of accepting 9 10 the bond from the contractor. Whenever a public body accepts a bond in lieu of retained funds from a contractor, the contractor shall accept 11 12 like bonds from any subcontractors or suppliers from which the 13 contractor has retained funds. The contractor shall then release the 14 funds retained from the subcontractor or supplier to the subcontractor or supplier within thirty days of accepting the bond from the 15 16 subcontractor or supplier.

17 (7) If the public body administering a contract, after а substantial portion of the work has been completed, finds that an 18 unreasonable delay will occur in the completion of the remaining 19 portion of the contract for any reason not the result of a breach 20 21 thereof, it may, if the contractor agrees, delete from the contract the 22 remaining work and accept as final the improvement at the stage of 23 completion then attained and make payment in proportion to the amount 24 of the work accomplished and in this case any amounts retained and 25 accumulated under this section shall be held for a period of sixty days following the completion. In the event that the work is terminated 26 27 before final completion as provided in this section, the public body may thereafter enter into a new contract with the same contractor to 28 perform the remaining work or improvement for an amount equal to or 29 less than the cost of the remaining work as was provided for in the 30 original contract without advertisement or bid. The provisions of this 31 32 chapter are exclusive and shall supersede all provisions and regulations in conflict herewith. 33

34 (8) Whenever the department of transportation has contracted for 35 the construction of two or more ferry vessels, sixty days after 36 completion of all contract work on each ferry vessel, the department 37 must release and pay in full the amounts retained in connection with 38 the construction of the vessel subject to the provisions of RCW

60.28.020 and chapter 39.12 RCW. However, the department 1 of 2 transportation may at its discretion condition the release of funds retained in connection with the completed ferry upon the contractor 3 delivering a good and sufficient bond with two or more sureties, or 4 5 with a surety company, in the amount of the retained funds to be released to the contractor, conditioned that no taxes shall be б 7 certified or claims filed for work on the ferry after a period of sixty days following completion of the ferry; and if taxes are certified or 8 9 claims filed, recovery may be had on the bond by the department of 10 revenue, the employment security department, the department of labor and industries, and the material suppliers and laborers filing claims. 11

12 (9) Except as provided in subsection (1) of this section, 13 reservation by a public body for any purpose from the moneys earned by 14 a contractor by fulfilling its responsibilities under public 15 improvement contracts is prohibited.

16 (10) Contracts on projects funded in whole or in part by farmers 17 home administration and subject to farmers home administration 18 regulations are not subject to subsections (1) through (9) of this 19 section.

20 (11) This subsection applies only to a public body that has 21 contracted for the construction of a facility using the general 22 contractor/construction manager procedure, as defined under RCW 39.10.210. If the work performed by a subcontractor on the project has 23 24 been completed within the first half of the time provided in the 25 general contractor/construction manager contract for completing the work, the public body may accept the completion of the subcontract. 26 27 The public body must give public notice of this acceptance. After a forty-five day period for giving notice of liens, and compliance with 28 the retainage release procedures in RCW 60.28.021, the public body may 29 release that portion of the retained funds associated with the 30 subcontract. Claims against the retained funds after the forty-five 31 32 day period are not valid.

(12) Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitionsin this subsection apply throughout this section.

(a) "Contract retainage" means an amount reserved by a public body
 from the moneys earned by a person under a public improvement contract.
 (b) "Person" means a person or persons, mechanic, subcontractor, or
 materialperson who performs labor or provides materials for a public

improvement contract, and any other person who supplies the person with provisions or supplies for the carrying on of a public improvement contract.

4 (c) "Public body" means the state, or a county, city, town,5 district, board, or other public body.

6 (d) "Public improvement contract" means a contract for public 7 improvements or work, other than for professional services, or a work 8 order as defined in RCW 39.10.210.

9 Sec. 6. RCW 60.28.021 and 2007 c 218 s 94 are each amended to read 10 as follows:

After the expiration of the forty-five day period for giving notice 11 of lien provided in RCW 60.28.011(2), and after receipt of the 12 ((department of revenue's)) certificates of the department of revenue, 13 the employment security department, and the department of labor and 14 industries, and the public body is satisfied that the taxes certified 15 16 as due or to become due by the department of revenue, the employment 17 security department, and the department of labor and industries are discharged, and the claims of material suppliers and laborers who have 18 19 filed their claims, together with a sum sufficient to defray the cost 20 of foreclosing the liens of such claims, and to pay attorneys' fees, 21 have been paid, the public body may withhold from the remaining retained amounts for claims the public body may have against the 22 23 contractor and shall pay the balance, if any, to the contractor the 24 fund retained by it or release to the contractor the securities and bonds held in escrow. 25

If such taxes have not been discharged or the claims, expenses, and fees have not been paid, the public body shall either retain in its fund, or in an interest bearing account, or retain in escrow, at the option of the contractor, an amount equal to such unpaid taxes and unpaid claims together with a sum sufficient to defray the costs and attorney fees incurred in foreclosing the lien of such claims, and shall pay, or release from escrow, the remainder to the contractor.

33 **Sec. 7.** RCW 60.28.040 and 1985 c 80 s 1 are each amended to read 34 as follows:

35 (1) Subject to subsection (5) of this section, the amount of all 36 taxes, increases, and penalties due or to become due under Title 82

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1 RCW, from a contractor or the contractor's successors or assignees with 2 respect to a public improvement contract wherein the contract price is 3 twenty thousand dollars or more, shall be a lien prior to all other 4 liens upon the amount of the retained percentage withheld by the 5 disbursing officer under such contract((, except that)).

б (2) Subject to subsection (5) of this section, after payment of all 7 taxes, increases, and penalties due or to become due under Title 82 RCW, from a contractor or the contractor's successors or assignees with 8 respect to a public improvement contract wherein the contract price is 9 twenty\_thousand\_dollars\_or\_more,\_the\_amount\_of\_all\_other\_taxes, 10 increases, and penalties under Title 82 RCW, due and owing from the 11 12 contractor, shall be a lien prior to all other liens upon the amount of 13 the retained percentage withheld by the disbursing officer under such 14 contract.

(3) Subject to subsection (5) of this section, after payment of all 15 taxes, increases, and penalties due or to become due under Title 82 16 RCW, the amount of all taxes, increases, and penalties due or to become 17 due under Titles 50 and 51 RCW from the contractor or the contractor's 18 successors or assignees with respect to a public improvement contract 19 wherein the contract price is twenty thousand dollars or more shall be 20 21 a lien prior to all other liens upon the amount of the retained percentage withheld by the disbursing officer under such contract. 22

23 (4) Subject to subsection (5) of this section, the amount of all 24 other taxes, increases, and penalties due and owing from the contractor 25 shall be a lien upon the balance of such retained percentage remaining 26 in the possession of the disbursing officer after all other statutory 27 lien claims have been paid.

(5) The employees of a contractor or the contractor's successors or 28 assignees who have not been paid the prevailing wage under such a 29 public improvement contract shall have a first priority lien against 30 the bond or retainage prior to all other liens. ((The amount of all 31 32 other taxes, increases and penalties due and owing from the contractor shall be a lien upon the balance of such retained percentage remaining 33 34 in the possession of the disbursing officer after all other statutory 35 lien claims have been paid.))

36 **Sec. 8.** RCW 60.28.051 and 2007 c 210 s 2 are each amended to read 37 as follows:

Upon completion of a contract, the state, county, or other 1 2 municipal officer charged with the duty of disbursing or authorizing 3 disbursement or payment of such contracts shall forthwith notify the department of revenue, the employment security department, and the 4 department of labor and industries of the completion of contracts over 5 thirty-five thousand dollars. Such officer shall not make any payment б 7 from the retained percentage fund or release any retained percentage escrow account to any person, until he or she has received from the 8 department of revenue ((a)), the employment security department, and 9 the department of labor and industries certificates that all taxes, 10 increases, and penalties due from the contractor, and all taxes due and 11 12 to become due with respect to such contract have been paid in full or 13 are, in ((<del>the</del>)) <u>each</u> department's opinion, that they readily 14 collectible without recourse to the state's lien on the retained 15 percentage.

16 Sec. 9. RCW 60.28.060 and 1967 ex.s. c 26 s 25 are each amended to 17 read as follows:

If within thirty days after receipt of notice by the department of 18 19 revenue, the employment security department, and the department of 20 labor and industries of the completion of the contract, the amount of 21 all taxes, increases and penalties due from the contractor or any of his successors or assignees or to become due with respect to such 22 23 contract have not been paid, the department of revenue, the employment 24 security department, and the department of labor and industries may 25 certify to the disbursing officer the amount of all taxes, increases 26 and penalties due from the contractor, together with the amount of all 27 taxes due and to become due with respect to the contract and may request payment thereof ((to the department of revenue)) in accordance 28 with the priority provided by this chapter. The disbursing officer 29 30 shall within ten days after receipt of such certificate and request pay to the department of revenue, the employment security department, and 31 the department of labor and industries the amount of all taxes, 32 increases and penalties certified to be due or to become due ((with 33 34 respect to the particular contract, and, after payment of)) and all 35 claims which by statute are a lien upon the retained percentage 36 withheld by the disbursing officer((, shall pay to the department of 37 revenue the balance, if any, or so much thereof as shall be necessary

to satisfy the claim of the department of revenue for the balance of all taxes, increases or penalties shown to be due by the certificate of the department of revenue)) in accordance with the priority provided by this chapter. If the contractor owes no taxes imposed pursuant to Titles 50, 51, and 82 RCW, the department of revenue, the employment security department, and the department of labor and industries shall so certify to the disbursing officer.

8 <u>NEW SECTION.</u> Sec. 10. A new section is added to chapter 51.04 RCW 9 to read as follows:

10 The department shall conduct education and outreach to employers on 11 workers' compensation requirements and premium responsibilities, 12 including independent contractor issues. The department shall work 13 with new employers on an individual basis and also establish mass 14 education campaigns.

15 Sec. 11. RCW 50.12.070 and 2008 c 120 s 7 are each amended to read 16 as follows:

(1)(a) Each employing unit shall keep true and accurate work 17 18 records, containing such information as the commissioner may prescribe. Such records shall be open to inspection and be subject to being copied 19 20 by the commissioner or his or her authorized representatives at any 21 reasonable time and as often as may be necessary. The commissioner may 22 require from any employing unit any sworn or unsworn reports with 23 respect to persons employed by it, which he or she deems necessary for the effective administration of this title. 24

25 (b) An employer who contracts with another person or entity for work subject to chapter 18.27 or 19.28 RCW shall obtain and preserve a 26 record of the unified business identifier account number for and 27 compensation paid to the person or entity performing the work. 28 In 29 addition to the penalty in subsection (3) of this section, failure to 30 obtain or maintain the record is subject to RCW 39.06.010 ((and to a penalty determined by the commissioner, but not to exceed two hundred 31 32 fifty dollars, to be collected as provided in RCW 50.24.120)).

33 (2)(a) Each employer shall register with the department and obtain 34 an employment security account number. Registration must include the 35 names and social security numbers of the owners, partners, members, or 36 corporate officers of the business, as well as their mailing addresses

and telephone numbers and other information the commissioner may by 1 2 rule prescribe. Registration of corporations must also include the percentage of stock ownership for each corporate officer, delineated by 3 zero percent, less than ten percent, or ten percent or more. Any 4 5 changes in the owners, partners, members, or corporate officers of the business, and changes in percentage of ownership of the outstanding б 7 shares of stock of the corporation, must be reported to the department intervals prescribed by the commissioner under 8 at (b) of this 9 subsection.

10 (b) Each employer shall make periodic reports at such intervals as 11 the commissioner may by regulation prescribe, setting forth the 12 remuneration paid for employment to workers in its employ, the full 13 names and social security numbers of all such workers, and the total 14 hours worked by each worker and such other information as the 15 commissioner may by regulation prescribe.

(c) If the employing unit fails or has failed to report the number 16 17 of hours in a reporting period for which a worker worked, such number will be computed by the commissioner and given the same force and 18 effect as if it had been reported by the employing unit. In computing 19 the number of such hours worked, the total wages for the reporting 20 period, as reported by the employing unit, shall be divided by the 21 22 dollar amount of the state's minimum wage in effect for such reporting period and the quotient, disregarding any remainder, shall be credited 23 24 to the worker: PROVIDED, That although the computation so made will 25 not be subject to appeal by the employing unit, monetary entitlement may be redetermined upon request if the department is provided with 26 27 credible evidence of the actual hours worked. Benefits paid using computed hours are not considered an overpayment and are not subject to 28 collections when the correction of computed hours results in an invalid 29 or reduced claim; however: 30

(i) A contribution paying employer who fails to report the number of hours worked will have its experience rating account charged for all benefits paid that are based on hours computed under this subsection; and

35 (ii) An employer who reimburses the trust fund for benefits paid to 36 workers and fails to report the number of hours worked shall reimburse 37 the trust fund for all benefits paid that are based on hours computed 38 under this subsection.

1 (3) Any employer who fails to keep and preserve records required by
2 this section shall be subject to a penalty determined by the
3 commissioner but not to exceed two hundred fifty dollars or two hundred
4 percent of the quarterly tax for each offense, whichever is greater.

5 **Sec. 12.** 2008 c 120 s 10 (uncodified) is amended to read as 6 follows:

7 (1) The joint legislative task force on the underground economy 8 ((in the Washington state construction industry)) is established. For 9 purposes of this section, "underground economy" means ((contracting and 10 construction)) <u>business</u> activities in which payroll is unreported or 11 underreported with consequent nonpayment of payroll taxes to federal 12 and state agencies including nonpayment of workers' compensation and 13 unemployment compensation taxes.

(2) The purpose of the task force is to formulate a state policy to 14 15 establish cohesion and transparency between state agencies so as to 16 increase the oversight and regulation of the underground economy 17 practices ((in the construction industry)) in this state. To assist the task force in achieving this goal and to determine the extent of 18 and projected costs to the state and workers of the underground economy 19 20 ((in the construction industry)), the task force shall contract with the institute for public policy, or, if the institute is unavailable, 21 another entity with expertise capable of providing such assistance. 22

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(3)(a) The task force shall consist of the following members:

(i) The chair and ranking minority member of the senate labor,commerce, research and development committee;

26 (ii) The chair and ranking minority member of the house of 27 representatives commerce and labor committee;

(iii) Four members representing ((the-construction)) business 28 29 selected from nominations submitted interests, by statewide ((construction)) business organizations and appointed jointly by the 30 31 president of the senate and the speaker of the house of representatives; 32

33 (iv) Four members representing ((construction-laborers)) labor 34 <u>interests</u>, selected from nominations submitted by statewide labor 35 organizations and appointed jointly by the president of the senate and 36 the speaker of the house of representatives<u>;</u> 1 (v) One member representing cities, appointed by an association of 2 cities;

3 (vi) One member representing counties, appointed by an association
 4 of counties.

(b) In addition, the employment security department, the department 5 of labor and industries, and the department of revenue shall cooperate 6 7 with the task force and shall each maintain a liaison representative, who is a nonvoting member of the task force. The departments shall 8 9 cooperate with the task force and the institute for public policy, or other entity as appropriate, and shall provide information and data as 10 the task force or the institute, or other entity as appropriate, may 11 reasonably request. 12

13 (c) The task force shall choose its chair or cochairs from among 14 its legislative membership. The chairs of the senate labor, commerce, 15 research and development committee and the house of representatives 16 commerce and labor committee shall convene the initial meeting of the 17 task force.

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(4) In conducting its study in 2009, the task force may consider:

19 (a) Issues previously discussed by the joint legislative task force 20 on the underground economy in the construction industry and whether 21 these issues need to be addressed in nonconstruction industries;

22 (b) The role of local governments in monitoring the underground 23 economy;

24 (c) The need to establish additional benchmarks and measures for 25 purposes of section 13 of this act;

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(d) Such other items the task force deems necessary.

27 (5)(a) The task force shall use legislative facilities and staff 28 support shall be provided by senate committee services and the house of 29 representatives office of program research. Within available funding, 30 the task force may hire additional staff with specific technical 31 expertise if such expertise is necessary to carry out the mandates of 32 this study.

(b) Legislative members of the task force shall be reimbursed for travel expenses in accordance with RCW 44.04.120. Nonlegislative members, except those representing an employer or organization, are entitled to be reimbursed for travel expenses in accordance with RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060. 1 (c) The expenses of the task force will be paid jointly by the 2 senate and house of representatives. Task force expenditures are 3 subject to approval by the senate facilities and operations committee 4 and the house of representatives executive rules committee, or their 5 successor committees.

6 (((<del>5)</del>)) <u>(6)</u> The task force shall report its ((<del>preliminary</del>))
7 findings and recommendations to the legislature by ((<del>January 1, 2008,</del>
8 and submit a final report to the legislature by)) December ((<del>31, 2008</del>))
9 <u>1, 2009</u>.

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 $\left(\left(\frac{6}{1}\right)\right)$  <u>(7)</u> This section expires  $\left(\left(\frac{1}{1}\right)\right)$  <u>December 15,</u> 2009.

11 NEW SECTION. Sec. 13. The department of labor and industries, the 12 employment security department, and the department of revenue shall coordinate and report to the appropriate committees of the legislature 13 by December 1st of each year on the effectiveness of efforts 14 implemented since July 1, 2008, to address the underground economy. 15 16 The agencies shall use benchmarks and measures established by the 17 institute for public policy and other measures it determines 18 appropriate.

19 <u>NEW SECTION.</u> Sec. 14. Section 11 of this act takes effect October
20 1, 2009.

Passed by the House April 23, 2009. Passed by the Senate April 16, 2009. Approved by the Governor May 11, 2009. Filed in Office of Secretary of State May 11, 2009.