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**SENATE BILL 5143**

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**State of Washington**

**69th Legislature**

**2025 Regular Session**

**By** Senators Gildon and Pedersen; by request of Legislative Ethics Board

Prefiled 01/07/25.

1 AN ACT Relating to the ethics in public service act; amending RCW  
2 42.52.010, 42.52.030, 42.52.070, 42.52.080, 42.52.090, 42.52.110,  
3 42.52.120, 42.52.150, 42.52.150, 42.52.160, 42.52.180, 42.52.180,  
4 42.52.220, 42.52.320, 42.52.480, 42.52.490, 42.52.805, 42.52.810,  
5 42.17A.005, 29B.10.270, 42.17A.615, 29B.50.050, 42.17A.620,  
6 29B.50.060, 42.17A.710, and 29B.55.030; reenacting and amending RCW  
7 42.52.010; adding new sections to chapter 42.52 RCW; repealing RCW  
8 42.52.140, 42.52.340, and 42.52.801; providing an effective date; and  
9 providing an expiration date.

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

11 **Sec. 1.** RCW 42.52.010 and 2022 c 173 s 1 and 2022 c 71 s 15 are  
12 each reenacted and amended to read as follows:

13 Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in  
14 this section apply throughout this chapter.

15 (1) "Agency" means any state board, commission, bureau,  
16 committee, department, institution, division, or tribunal in the  
17 legislative, executive, or judicial branch of state government.  
18 "Agency" includes all elective offices, the state legislature, those  
19 institutions of higher education created and supported by the state  
20 government, and those courts that are parts of state government.  
21 "Agency" does not include a comprehensive cancer center participating

1 in a collaborative arrangement as defined in RCW 28B.10.930 that is  
2 operated in conformance with RCW 28B.10.930.

3 (2) "Appearance" means the act of performing or participating in  
4 an event.

5 (3) "Assist" means to act, or offer or agree to act, in such a  
6 way as to help, aid, advise, furnish information to, or otherwise  
7 provide assistance to another person, believing that the action is of  
8 help, aid, advice, or assistance to the person and with intent so to  
9 assist such person.

10 ~~((3))~~ (4) "Beneficial interest" ((has the meaning ascribed to  
11 it under the Washington case law)) means a financial interest in a  
12 contract, sale, lease, purchase, or grant to which an individual  
13 subject to the act is not a party, but is an owner of an entity that  
14 is a party. An ownership interest of less than 10 percent of an  
15 entity is not a beneficial interest. However, an ownership interest  
16 in a mutual fund or similar investment pooling fund in which the  
17 owner has no management powers does not constitute a beneficial  
18 interest in the entities in which the fund or pool invests.

19 ~~((4))~~ (5) "Charitable association, institution, or  
20 organization" means any entity that provides services beneficial to  
21 the public to an open class of people.

22 (6) "Civic organization" means a nonprofit group relating to the  
23 duties or activities of people in relation to their town, city, or  
24 local area.

25 (7) "Community organization" means an organization aimed at  
26 making desired improvements to a community's social health, well-  
27 being, and overall functioning.

28 (8) "Compensation" means anything of economic value, however  
29 designated, that is paid, loaned, granted, or transferred, or to be  
30 paid, loaned, granted, or transferred for, or in consideration of,  
31 personal services to any person.

32 ~~((5))~~ (9) "Confidential information" means (a) specific  
33 information, rather than generalized knowledge, that is not available  
34 to the general public on request or (b) information made confidential  
35 by law.

36 ~~((6))~~ (10) "Contract" or "grant" means an agreement between two  
37 or more persons that creates an obligation to do or not to do a  
38 particular thing. "Contract" or "grant" includes, but is not limited  
39 to, an employment contract, a lease, a license, a purchase agreement,  
40 or a sales agreement.

1       ~~((7))~~ (11) "Emergency" means a serious, unexpected, and often  
2 dangerous situation requiring immediate action.

3       (12) "Ethics boards" means the commission on judicial conduct,  
4 the legislative ethics board, and the executive ethics board.

5       ~~((8))~~ (13) "Extraordinary award" means a national, state, or  
6 local award with very few recipients that is sufficiently infrequent  
7 to be noteworthy to a reasonable person.

8       (14) "Family" has the same meaning as "immediate family" in RCW  
9 42.17A.005.

10       ~~((9))~~ "Gift" means anything of economic value for which no  
11 consideration is given. "Gift" does not include:

12       ~~(a) Items from family members or friends where it is clear beyond~~  
13 ~~a reasonable doubt that the gift was not made as part of any design~~  
14 ~~to gain or maintain influence in the agency of which the recipient is~~  
15 ~~an officer or employee;~~

16       ~~(b) Items related to the outside business of the recipient that~~  
17 ~~are customary and not related to the recipient's performance of~~  
18 ~~official duties;~~

19       ~~(c) Items exchanged among officials and employees or a social~~  
20 ~~event hosted or sponsored by a state officer or state employee for~~  
21 ~~coworkers;~~

22       ~~(d) Payments by a governmental or nongovernmental entity of~~  
23 ~~reasonable expenses incurred in connection with a speech,~~  
24 ~~presentation, appearance, or trade mission made in an official~~  
25 ~~capacity. As used in this subsection, "reasonable expenses" are~~  
26 ~~limited to travel, lodging, and subsistence expenses incurred the day~~  
27 ~~before through the day after the event;~~

28       ~~(e) Items a state officer or state employee is authorized by law~~  
29 ~~to accept;~~

30       ~~(f) Payment of enrollment and course fees and reasonable travel~~  
31 ~~expenses attributable to attending seminars and educational programs~~  
32 ~~sponsored by a bona fide governmental or nonprofit professional,~~  
33 ~~educational, trade, or charitable association or institution. As used~~  
34 ~~in this subsection, "reasonable expenses" are limited to travel,~~  
35 ~~lodging, and subsistence expenses incurred the day before through the~~  
36 ~~day after the event;~~

37       ~~(g) Items returned by the recipient to the donor within thirty~~  
38 ~~days of receipt or donated to a charitable organization within thirty~~  
39 ~~days of receipt;~~

40       ~~(h) Campaign contributions reported under chapter 42.17A RCW;~~

1 ~~(i) Discounts available to an individual as a member of an~~  
2 ~~employee group, occupation, or similar broad-based group; and~~

3 ~~(j) Awards, prizes, scholarships, or other items provided in~~  
4 ~~recognition of academic or scientific achievement.~~

5 ~~(10))~~ (15) "Federal holiday" means the legal public holidays  
6 provided in 5 U.S.C. Sec. 6103(a), as it existed on the effective  
7 date of this section.

8 (16) "Head of agency" means the chief executive officer of an  
9 agency. In the case of an agency headed by a commission, board,  
10 committee, or other body consisting of more than one natural person,  
11 agency head means the person or board authorized to appoint agency  
12 employees and regulate their conduct.

13 ~~((11))~~ (17) "Honorarium" means money or thing of value offered  
14 to a state officer or state employee for a speech, appearance,  
15 article, or similar item or activity in connection with the state  
16 officer's or state employee's official role.

17 ~~((12))~~ (18) "Institution of higher education" has the same  
18 meaning as in RCW 28B.10.016.

19 ~~((13))~~ (19) "Lobbying the legislature" means attempting to  
20 influence the passage or defeat of any legislation by the legislature  
21 of the state of Washington.

22 (20) "Official duty" means those duties within the specific scope  
23 of employment of the state officer or state employee as defined by  
24 the officer's or employee's agency or by statute or the state  
25 Constitution.

26 ~~((14))~~ (21) "Official position" means holding an office or  
27 having authority.

28 (22) "Participate" means to participate in state action or a  
29 proceeding personally and substantially as a state officer or state  
30 employee, through approval, disapproval, decision, recommendation,  
31 the rendering of advice, investigation, or otherwise but does not  
32 include preparation, consideration, or enactment of legislation or  
33 the performance of legislative duties.

34 ~~((15))~~ (23) "Person" means any individual, partnership,  
35 association, corporation, firm, institution, or other entity, whether  
36 or not operated for profit.

37 ~~((16))~~ (24) "Regulatory agency" means any state board,  
38 commission, department, or officer, except those in the legislative  
39 or judicial branches, authorized by law to conduct adjudicative

1 proceedings, issue permits or licenses, or to control or affect  
2 interests of identified persons.

3 ~~((17))~~ (25) "Responsibility" in connection with a transaction  
4 involving the state, means the direct administrative or operating  
5 authority, whether intermediate or final, and either exercisable  
6 alone or through subordinates, effectively to approve, disapprove, or  
7 otherwise direct state action in respect of such transaction.

8 ~~((18))~~ (26) "State action" means any action on the part of an  
9 agency, including, but not limited to:

10 (a) A decision, determination, finding, ruling, or order; and

11 (b) A grant, payment, award, license, contract, transaction,  
12 sanction, or approval, or the denial thereof, or failure to act with  
13 respect to a decision, determination, finding, ruling, or order.

14 ~~((19))~~ (27) "State employee" means an individual who is  
15 employed by an agency in any branch of state government. For purposes  
16 of this chapter, employees of the superior courts are not state  
17 officers or state employees.

18 ~~((20))~~ (28) "State officer" means every person holding a  
19 position of public trust in or under an executive, legislative, or  
20 judicial office of the state. "State officer" includes judges of the  
21 superior court, judges of the court of appeals, justices of the  
22 supreme court, members of the legislature together with the secretary  
23 of the senate and the chief clerk of the house of representatives,  
24 holders of elective offices in the executive branch of state  
25 government, chief executive officers of state agencies, members of  
26 boards, commissions, or committees with authority over one or more  
27 state agencies or institutions, and employees of the state who are  
28 engaged in supervisory, policy-making, or policy-enforcing work. For  
29 the purposes of this chapter, "state officer" also includes any  
30 person exercising or undertaking to exercise the powers or functions  
31 of a state officer.

32 ~~((21))~~ (29) "Thing of economic value," in addition to its  
33 ordinary meaning, includes:

34 (a) A loan, property interest, interest in a contract or other  
35 chose in action, and employment or another arrangement involving a  
36 right to compensation;

37 (b) An option, irrespective of the conditions to the exercise of  
38 the option; and

39 (c) A promise or undertaking for the present or future delivery  
40 or procurement.

1       (~~(22)~~) (30) (a) "Transaction involving the state" means a  
2 proceeding, application, submission, request for a ruling or other  
3 determination, contract, claim, case, or other similar matter that  
4 the state officer, state employee, or former state officer or state  
5 employee in question believes, or has reason to believe:

6       (i) Is, or will be, the subject of state action; or

7       (ii) Is one to which the state is or will be a party; or

8       (iii) Is one in which the state has a direct and substantial  
9 proprietary interest.

10       (b) "Transaction involving the state" does not include the  
11 following: Preparation, consideration, or enactment of legislation,  
12 including appropriation of moneys in a budget, or the performance of  
13 legislative duties by an officer or employee; or a claim, case,  
14 lawsuit, or similar matter if the officer or employee did not  
15 participate in the underlying transaction involving the state that is  
16 the basis for the claim, case, or lawsuit.

17       (~~(23)~~) (31) "University" includes "state universities" and  
18 "regional universities" as defined in RCW 28B.10.016 and also  
19 includes any research or technology institute affiliated with a  
20 university.

21       (~~(24)~~) (32) "University research employee" means a state  
22 officer or state employee employed by a university, but only to the  
23 extent the state officer or state employee is engaged in research,  
24 technology transfer, approved consulting activities related to  
25 research and technology transfer, or other incidental activities.

26       **Sec. 2.** RCW 42.52.010 and 2024 c 164 s 513 are each amended to  
27 read as follows:

28       Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in  
29 this section apply throughout this chapter.

30       (1) "Agency" means any state board, commission, bureau,  
31 committee, department, institution, division, or tribunal in the  
32 legislative, executive, or judicial branch of state government.  
33 "Agency" includes all elective offices, the state legislature, those  
34 institutions of higher education created and supported by the state  
35 government, and those courts that are parts of state government.  
36 "Agency" does not include a comprehensive cancer center participating  
37 in a collaborative arrangement as defined in RCW 28B.10.930 that is  
38 operated in conformance with RCW 28B.10.930.

1           (2) "Appearance" means the act of performing or participating in  
2 an event.

3           (3) "Assist" means to act, or offer or agree to act, in such a  
4 way as to help, aid, advise, furnish information to, or otherwise  
5 provide assistance to another person, believing that the action is of  
6 help, aid, advice, or assistance to the person and with intent so to  
7 assist such person.

8           ~~((3))~~ (4) "Beneficial interest" ~~((has the meaning ascribed to~~  
9 ~~it under the Washington case law)) means a financial interest in a~~  
10 contract, sale, lease, purchase, or grant to which an individual  
11 subject to the act is not a party, but is an owner of an entity that  
12 is a party. An ownership interest of less than 10 percent of an  
13 entity is not a beneficial interest. However, an ownership interest  
14 in a mutual fund or similar investment pooling fund in which the  
15 owner has no management powers does not constitute a beneficial  
16 interest in the entities in which the fund or pool invests.

17           ~~((4))~~ "Charitable association, institution, or organization"  
18 means any entity that provides services beneficial to the public to  
19 an open class of people.

20           (6) "Civic organization" means a nonprofit group relating to the  
21 duties or activities of people in relation to their town, city, or  
22 local area.

23           (7) "Community organization" means an organization aimed at  
24 making desired improvements to a community's social health, well-  
25 being, and overall functioning.

26           (8) "Compensation" means anything of economic value, however  
27 designated, that is paid, loaned, granted, or transferred, or to be  
28 paid, loaned, granted, or transferred for, or in consideration of,  
29 personal services to any person.

30           ~~((5))~~ (9) "Confidential information" means (a) specific  
31 information, rather than generalized knowledge, that is not available  
32 to the general public on request or (b) information made confidential  
33 by law.

34           ~~((6))~~ (10) "Contract" or "grant" means an agreement between two  
35 or more persons that creates an obligation to do or not to do a  
36 particular thing. "Contract" or "grant" includes, but is not limited  
37 to, an employment contract, a lease, a license, a purchase agreement,  
38 or a sales agreement.

39           ~~((7))~~ (11) "Emergency" means a serious, unexpected, and often  
40 dangerous situation requiring immediate action.

1       (12) "Ethics boards" means the commission on judicial conduct,  
2 the legislative ethics board, and the executive ethics board.

3       ~~((8))~~ (13) "Extraordinary award" means a national, state, or  
4 local award with very few recipients that is sufficiently infrequent  
5 to be noteworthy to a reasonable person.

6       (14) "Family" has the same meaning as "immediate family" in RCW  
7 29B.10.280.

8       ~~((9) "Gift" means anything of economic value for which no~~  
9 ~~consideration is given. "Gift" does not include:~~

10       ~~(a) Items from family members or friends where it is clear beyond~~  
11 ~~a reasonable doubt that the gift was not made as part of any design~~  
12 ~~to gain or maintain influence in the agency of which the recipient is~~  
13 ~~an officer or employee;~~

14       ~~(b) Items related to the outside business of the recipient that~~  
15 ~~are customary and not related to the recipient's performance of~~  
16 ~~official duties;~~

17       ~~(c) Items exchanged among officials and employees or a social~~  
18 ~~event hosted or sponsored by a state officer or state employee for~~  
19 ~~coworkers;~~

20       ~~(d) Payments by a governmental or nongovernmental entity of~~  
21 ~~reasonable expenses incurred in connection with a speech,~~  
22 ~~presentation, appearance, or trade mission made in an official~~  
23 ~~capacity. As used in this subsection, "reasonable expenses" are~~  
24 ~~limited to travel, lodging, and subsistence expenses incurred the day~~  
25 ~~before through the day after the event;~~

26       ~~(e) Items a state officer or state employee is authorized by law~~  
27 ~~to accept;~~

28       ~~(f) Payment of enrollment and course fees and reasonable travel~~  
29 ~~expenses attributable to attending seminars and educational programs~~  
30 ~~sponsored by a bona fide governmental or nonprofit professional,~~  
31 ~~educational, trade, or charitable association or institution. As used~~  
32 ~~in this subsection, "reasonable expenses" are limited to travel,~~  
33 ~~lodging, and subsistence expenses incurred the day before through the~~  
34 ~~day after the event;~~

35       ~~(g) Items returned by the recipient to the donor within 30 days~~  
36 ~~of receipt or donated to a charitable organization within 30 days of~~  
37 ~~receipt;~~

38       ~~(h) Campaign contributions reported under Title 29B RCW;~~

39       ~~(i) Discounts available to an individual as a member of an~~  
40 ~~employee group, occupation, or similar broad-based group; and~~



1       ~~(j) Awards, prizes, scholarships, or other items provided in~~  
2 ~~recognition of academic or scientific achievement.~~

3       ~~(10))~~ (15) "Federal holiday" means the legal public holidays  
4 provided in 5 U.S.C. Sec. 6103(a), as it existed on the effective  
5 date of this section.

6       (16) "Head of agency" means the chief executive officer of an  
7 agency. In the case of an agency headed by a commission, board,  
8 committee, or other body consisting of more than one natural person,  
9 agency head means the person or board authorized to appoint agency  
10 employees and regulate their conduct.

11       ~~((11))~~ (17) "Honorarium" means money or thing of value offered  
12 to a state officer or state employee for a speech, appearance,  
13 article, or similar item or activity in connection with the state  
14 officer's or state employee's official role.

15       ~~((12))~~ (18) "Institution of higher education" has the same  
16 meaning as in RCW 28B.10.016.

17       ~~((13))~~ (19) "Lobbying the legislature" means attempting to  
18 influence the passage or defeat of any legislation by the legislature  
19 of the state of Washington.

20       (20) "Official duty" means those duties within the specific scope  
21 of employment of the state officer or state employee as defined by  
22 the officer's or employee's agency or by statute or the state  
23 Constitution.

24       ~~((14))~~ (21) "Official position" means holding an office or  
25 having authority.

26       (22) "Participate" means to participate in state action or a  
27 proceeding personally and substantially as a state officer or state  
28 employee, through approval, disapproval, decision, recommendation,  
29 the rendering of advice, investigation, or otherwise but does not  
30 include preparation, consideration, or enactment of legislation or  
31 the performance of legislative duties.

32       ~~((15))~~ (23) "Person" means any individual, partnership,  
33 association, corporation, firm, institution, or other entity, whether  
34 or not operated for profit.

35       ~~((16))~~ (24) "Regulatory agency" means any state board,  
36 commission, department, or officer, except those in the legislative  
37 or judicial branches, authorized by law to conduct adjudicative  
38 proceedings, issue permits or licenses, or to control or affect  
39 interests of identified persons.

1       (~~(17)~~) (25) "Responsibility" in connection with a transaction  
2 involving the state, means the direct administrative or operating  
3 authority, whether intermediate or final, and either exercisable  
4 alone or through subordinates, effectively to approve, disapprove, or  
5 otherwise direct state action in respect of such transaction.

6       (~~(18)~~) (26) "State action" means any action on the part of an  
7 agency, including, but not limited to:

8       (a) A decision, determination, finding, ruling, or order; and

9       (b) A grant, payment, award, license, contract, transaction,  
10 sanction, or approval, or the denial thereof, or failure to act with  
11 respect to a decision, determination, finding, ruling, or order.

12       (~~(19)~~) (27) "State employee" means an individual who is  
13 employed by an agency in any branch of state government. For purposes  
14 of this chapter, employees of the superior courts are not state  
15 officers or state employees.

16       (~~(20)~~) (28) "State officer" means every person holding a  
17 position of public trust in or under an executive, legislative, or  
18 judicial office of the state. "State officer" includes judges of the  
19 superior court, judges of the court of appeals, justices of the  
20 supreme court, members of the legislature together with the secretary  
21 of the senate and the chief clerk of the house of representatives,  
22 holders of elective offices in the executive branch of state  
23 government, chief executive officers of state agencies, members of  
24 boards, commissions, or committees with authority over one or more  
25 state agencies or institutions, and employees of the state who are  
26 engaged in supervisory, policy-making, or policy-enforcing work. For  
27 the purposes of this chapter, "state officer" also includes any  
28 person exercising or undertaking to exercise the powers or functions  
29 of a state officer.

30       (~~(21)~~) (29) "Thing of economic value," in addition to its  
31 ordinary meaning, includes:

32       (a) A loan, property interest, interest in a contract or other  
33 chose in action, and employment or another arrangement involving a  
34 right to compensation;

35       (b) An option, irrespective of the conditions to the exercise of  
36 the option; and

37       (c) A promise or undertaking for the present or future delivery  
38 or procurement.

39       (~~(22)~~) (30) (a) "Transaction involving the state" means a  
40 proceeding, application, submission, request for a ruling or other

1 determination, contract, claim, case, or other similar matter that  
2 the state officer, state employee, or former state officer or state  
3 employee in question believes, or has reason to believe:

4 (i) Is, or will be, the subject of state action; or

5 (ii) Is one to which the state is or will be a party; or

6 (iii) Is one in which the state has a direct and substantial  
7 proprietary interest.

8 (b) "Transaction involving the state" does not include the  
9 following: Preparation, consideration, or enactment of legislation,  
10 including appropriation of moneys in a budget, or the performance of  
11 legislative duties by an officer or employee; or a claim, case,  
12 lawsuit, or similar matter if the officer or employee did not  
13 participate in the underlying transaction involving the state that is  
14 the basis for the claim, case, or lawsuit.

15 ~~((23))~~ (31) "University" includes "state universities" and  
16 "regional universities" as defined in RCW 28B.10.016 and also  
17 includes any research or technology institute affiliated with a  
18 university.

19 ~~((24))~~ (32) "University research employee" means a state  
20 officer or state employee employed by a university, but only to the  
21 extent the state officer or state employee is engaged in research,  
22 technology transfer, approved consulting activities related to  
23 research and technology transfer, or other incidental activities.

24 **Sec. 3.** RCW 42.52.030 and 2005 c 106 s 2 are each amended to  
25 read as follows:

26 (1) No state officer or state employee, except as provided in  
27 subsection (2) of this section, may ~~((be beneficially interested,~~  
28 ~~directly or indirectly,))~~ have a beneficial interest in a contract,  
29 sale, lease, purchase, or grant that may be made by, through, or is  
30 under the supervision of the officer or employee, in whole or in  
31 part, or accept ~~((, directly or indirectly,))~~ any compensation,  
32 gratuity, or reward from any other person ~~((beneficially interested))~~  
33 who has a beneficial interest in the contract, sale, lease, purchase,  
34 or grant.

35 (2) No state officer or state employee may participate in a  
36 transaction involving the state in his or her official capacity with  
37 a person of which the officer or employee is an officer, agent,  
38 employee, or member, or in which the officer or employee owns a  
39 beneficial interest, except that an officer or employee of an

1 institution of higher education (~~or the Spokane intercollegiate~~  
2 ~~research and technology institute~~) may serve as an officer, agent,  
3 employee, or member, or on the board of directors, board of trustees,  
4 advisory board, or committee or review panel for any nonprofit  
5 institute, foundation, or fund-raising entity; and may serve as a  
6 member of an advisory board, committee, or review panel for a  
7 governmental or other nonprofit entity.

8 **Sec. 4.** RCW 42.52.070 and 2022 c 37 s 1 are each amended to read  
9 as follows:

10 (1) Except as required to perform duties within the scope of  
11 employment, no state officer or state employee may use his or her  
12 position to secure special privileges or exemptions for himself or  
13 herself, or his or her spouse, child, parents, or other persons.

14 (2) For purposes of this section, and only as applied to  
15 legislators and employees under the jurisdiction of the legislative  
16 ethics board, activities within the scope of employment include but  
17 are not limited to duties enumerated in law and activities that have  
18 a tangible legislative nexus as described in section 12 of this act.

19 (~~Activities with a legislative nexus include but are not limited to:~~

20 ~~(a) Communications directly pertaining to any legislative~~  
21 ~~proposal which has been introduced in either chamber of the~~  
22 ~~legislature; and~~

23 ~~(b) Posting information to a legislator's official legislative~~  
24 ~~website, including an official legislative social media account,~~  
25 ~~about:~~

26 ~~(i) Emergencies;~~

27 ~~(ii) Federal holidays, state and legislatively recognized~~  
28 ~~holidays established under RCW 1.16.050, and religious holidays;~~

29 ~~(iii) Information originally provided or published by other~~  
30 ~~government entities which provide information about government~~  
31 ~~resources; and~~

32 ~~(iv) Achievements, honors, or awards of extraordinary~~  
33 ~~distinction.~~

34 ~~(3) It is not a violation of this section for a legislator or an~~  
35 ~~appropriate legislative staff designee to engage in activities listed~~  
36 ~~in subsection (2) of this section.~~

37 ~~(4))~~ (3) For purposes of this section, and only as applied to  
38 legislators and employees of the legislative branch, "special

1 privileges" includes, but is not limited to, engaging in behavior  
2 that constitutes harassment. As used in this section:

3 (a) "Harassment" means engaging in physical, verbal, visual, or  
4 psychological conduct that:

5 (i) Has the purpose or effect of interfering with the person's  
6 work performance;

7 (ii) Creates a hostile, intimidating, or offensive work  
8 environment; or

9 (iii) Constitutes sexual harassment.

10 (b) "Sexual harassment" means unwelcome or unwanted sexual  
11 advances, requests for sexual or romantic favors, sexually motivated  
12 bullying, or other verbal, visual, physical, or psychological conduct  
13 or communication of a sexual or romantic nature, when:

14 (i) Submission to the conduct or communication is either  
15 explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of current or future  
16 employment;

17 (ii) Submission to or rejection of the conduct or communication  
18 is used as the basis of an employment decision affecting the person;  
19 or

20 (iii) The conduct or communication unreasonably interferes with  
21 the person's job performance or creates a work environment that is  
22 hostile, intimidating, or offensive.

23 **Sec. 5.** RCW 42.52.080 and 1999 c 299 s 3 are each amended to  
24 read as follows:

25 (1) No former state officer or state employee may, within a  
26 period of one year from the date of termination of state employment,  
27 accept employment or receive compensation from an employer if:

28 (a) The officer or employee, during the two years immediately  
29 preceding termination of state employment, was engaged in the  
30 negotiation or administration on behalf of the state or agency of one  
31 or more contracts with that employer and was in a position to make  
32 discretionary decisions affecting the outcome of such negotiation or  
33 the nature of such administration;

34 (b) Such a contract or contracts have a total value of more than  
35 ten thousand dollars; and

36 (c) The duties of the employment with the employer or the  
37 activities for which the compensation would be received include  
38 fulfilling or implementing, in whole or in part, the provisions of  
39 such a contract or contracts or include the supervision or control of

1 actions taken to fulfill or implement, in whole or in part, the  
2 provisions of such a contract or contracts. This subsection shall not  
3 be construed to prohibit a state officer or state employee from  
4 accepting employment with a state employee organization.

5 (2) No person who has served as a state officer or state employee  
6 may, within a period of two years following the termination of state  
7 employment, have a (~~direct or indirect~~) beneficial interest in a  
8 contract or grant that was expressly authorized or funded by specific  
9 legislative or executive action in which the former state officer or  
10 state employee participated.

11 (3) No former state officer or state employee may accept an offer  
12 of employment or receive compensation from an employer if the officer  
13 or employee knows or has reason to believe that the offer of  
14 employment or compensation was intended, in whole or in part,  
15 directly or indirectly, to influence the officer or employee or as  
16 compensation or reward for the performance or nonperformance of a  
17 duty by the officer or employee during the course of state  
18 employment.

19 (4) No former state officer or state employee may accept an offer  
20 of employment or receive compensation from an employer if the  
21 circumstances would lead a reasonable person to believe the offer has  
22 been made, or compensation given, for the purpose of influencing the  
23 performance or nonperformance of duties by the officer or employee  
24 during the course of state employment.

25 (5) No former state officer or state employee may at any time  
26 subsequent to his or her state employment assist another person,  
27 whether or not for compensation, in any transaction involving the  
28 state in which the former state officer or state employee at any time  
29 participated during state employment. This subsection shall not be  
30 construed to prohibit any employee or officer of a state employee  
31 organization from rendering assistance to state officers or state  
32 employees in the course of employee organization business.

33 (6) As used in this section, "employer" means a person as defined  
34 in RCW 42.52.010 or any other entity or business that the person owns  
35 or in which the person has a controlling interest. For purposes of  
36 subsection (1) of this section, the term "employer" does not include  
37 a successor organization to the rural development council under  
38 chapter 43.31 RCW.

1       **Sec. 6.** RCW 42.52.090 and 1994 c 154 s 109 are each amended to  
2 read as follows:

3       This chapter shall not be construed to prevent a former state  
4 officer or state employee from rendering assistance to others if the  
5 assistance is provided without compensation in any form and is  
6 limited to one or more of the following:

7       (1) Providing the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of  
8 state agencies or state employees;

9       (2) Providing free transportation to another for the purpose of  
10 conducting business with a state agency;

11       (3) Assisting (~~(a natural person)~~) an individual or nonprofit  
12 corporation in obtaining or completing application forms or other  
13 forms required by a state agency for the conduct of a state business;  
14 or

15       (4) Providing assistance to the poor and infirm.

16       **Sec. 7.** RCW 42.52.110 and 1996 c 213 s 5 are each amended to  
17 read as follows:

18       No state officer or state employee may, directly or indirectly,  
19 ask for or give or receive or agree to receive any compensation,  
20 gift, reward, or gratuity from a source for performing or omitting or  
21 deferring the performance of any official duty, unless otherwise  
22 authorized by law except: (1) The state of Washington; or (2) in the  
23 case of officers or employees of institutions of higher education  
24 (~~(or of the Spokane intercollegiate research and technology~~  
25 ~~institute)~~), a governmental entity, an agency or instrumentality of a  
26 governmental entity, or a nonprofit corporation organized for the  
27 benefit and support of the state employee's agency or other state  
28 agencies pursuant to an agreement with the state employee's agency.

29       **Sec. 8.** RCW 42.52.120 and 1997 c 318 s 1 are each amended to  
30 read as follows:

31       (1) No state officer or state employee may receive any thing of  
32 economic value under any contract or grant outside of his or her  
33 official duties. The prohibition in this subsection does not apply  
34 where the state officer or state employee has (~~(complied with RCW~~  
35 ~~42.52.030(2) or)~~) met each of the following conditions (~~(are met)~~):

36       (a) The contract or grant is bona fide and actually performed;

1 (b) The performance or administration of the contract or grant is  
2 not within the course of the officer's or employee's official duties,  
3 or is not under the officer's or employee's official supervision;

4 (c) The performance of the contract or grant is not prohibited by  
5 RCW 42.52.040 or by applicable laws or rules governing outside  
6 employment for the officer or employee;

7 (d) The contract or grant is neither performed for nor  
8 compensated by any person from whom such officer or employee would be  
9 prohibited by RCW 42.52.150(~~(+4)~~) (6) from receiving a gift;

10 (e) The contract or grant is not one expressly created or  
11 authorized by the officer or employee in his or her official  
12 capacity;

13 (f) The contract or grant would not require unauthorized  
14 disclosure of confidential information.

15 (2) In addition to satisfying the requirements of subsection (1)  
16 of this section, a state officer or state employee may have a  
17 beneficial interest in a grant or contract or a series of  
18 substantially identical contracts or grants with a state agency only  
19 if:

20 (a) The contract or grant is awarded or issued as a result of an  
21 open and competitive bidding process in which more than one bid or  
22 grant application was received; or

23 (b) The contract or grant is awarded or issued as a result of an  
24 open and competitive bidding or selection process in which the  
25 officer's or employee's bid or proposal was the only bid or proposal  
26 received and the officer or employee has been advised by the  
27 appropriate ethics board, before execution of the contract or grant,  
28 that the contract or grant would not be in conflict with the proper  
29 discharge of the officer's or employee's official duties; or

30 (c) The process for awarding the contract or issuing the grant is  
31 not open and competitive, but the officer or employee has been  
32 advised by the appropriate ethics board after the contract or grant  
33 has been awarded that the contract or grant would not be in conflict  
34 with the proper discharge of the officer's or employee's official  
35 duties.

36 (3) A state officer or state employee awarded a contract or  
37 issued a grant in compliance with subsection (2) of this section  
38 shall file the contract or grant with the appropriate ethics board  
39 within thirty days after the date of execution; however, if  
40 proprietary formulae, designs, drawings, or research are included in



1 the contract or grant, the proprietary formulae, designs, drawings,  
2 or research may be deleted from the contract or grant filed with the  
3 appropriate ethics board.

4 (4) This section does not prevent a state officer or state  
5 employee from receiving compensation contributed from the treasury of  
6 the United States, another state, county, or municipality if the  
7 compensation is received pursuant to arrangements entered into  
8 between such state, county, municipality, or the United States and  
9 the officer's or employee's agency. This section does not prohibit a  
10 state officer or state employee from serving or performing any duties  
11 under an employment contract with a governmental entity.

12 (5) As used in this section, "officer" and "employee" do not  
13 include officers and employees who, in accordance with the terms of  
14 their employment or appointment, are serving without compensation  
15 from the state of Washington or are receiving from the state only  
16 reimbursement of expenses incurred or a predetermined allowance for  
17 such expenses.

18 **Sec. 9.** RCW 42.52.150 and 2023 c 91 s 2 are each amended to read  
19 as follows:

20 (1)(a) Unless the context requires otherwise, the definition of  
21 "gift" in this subsection applies throughout this chapter.

22 (b) "Gift" means anything of economic value for which no  
23 consideration is given.

24 (c) "Gift" does not include the following:

25 (i) Items from family members or friends where it is clear beyond  
26 a reasonable doubt that the gift was not made as part of any design  
27 to gain or maintain influence in the agency of which the recipient is  
28 an officer or employee;

29 (ii) Items related to the outside business of the recipient that  
30 are customary and not related to the recipient's performance of  
31 official duties;

32 (iii) Items exchanged among officials and employees at a social  
33 event hosted or sponsored by a state officer or state employee for  
34 coworkers;

35 (iv) Payments by a governmental or nongovernmental entity of  
36 reasonable expenses incurred in connection with a speech,  
37 presentation, appearance, or trade mission made in an official  
38 capacity. As used in this subsection, "reasonable expenses" are

1 limited to travel, lodging, and subsistence expenses incurred the day  
2 before through the day after the event;

3 (v) Items a state officer or state employee is authorized by law  
4 to accept;

5 (vi) Payment of enrollment and course fees and reasonable travel  
6 expenses attributable to attending seminars and educational programs  
7 sponsored by a bona fide governmental or nonprofit professional,  
8 educational, trade, or charitable association or institution. As used  
9 in this subsection, "reasonable expenses" are limited to travel,  
10 lodging, and subsistence expenses incurred the day before through the  
11 day after the event;

12 (vii) Items returned by the recipient to the donor within 30 days  
13 of receipt or donated to a charitable organization within 30 days of  
14 receipt;

15 (viii) Campaign contributions reported under chapter 42.17A RCW;

16 (ix) Discounts available to an individual as a member of an  
17 employee group, occupation, or similar broad-based group;

18 (x) Awards, prizes, scholarships, or other items provided in  
19 recognition of academic or scientific achievement; and

20 (xi) Gift cards received by legislative employees in an amount of  
21 \$25 or less.

22 (2) No state officer or state employee may receive, accept, take,  
23 seek, or solicit, directly or indirectly, any thing of economic value  
24 as a gift, gratuity, or favor from a person if it could be reasonably  
25 expected that the gift, gratuity, or favor would influence the vote,  
26 action, or judgment of the officer or employee, or be considered as  
27 part of a reward for action or inaction.

28 (3) No state officer or state employee may accept gifts, other  
29 than those specified in subsections ((2) and (5)) (4) and (7) of  
30 this section, with an aggregate value in excess of ((fifty dollars))  
31 \$100 from a single source in a calendar year or a single gift from  
32 multiple sources with a value in excess of ((fifty dollars)) \$100.  
33 For purposes of this section, "single source" means any person, as  
34 defined in RCW 42.52.010, whether acting directly or through any  
35 agent or other intermediary, and "single gift" includes any event,  
36 item, or group of items used in conjunction with each other or any  
37 trip including transportation, lodging, and attendant costs, not  
38 excluded from the definition of gift under ((RCW 42.52.010))  
39 subsection (1)(c) of this section. The value of gifts given to an  
40 officer's or employee's family member or guest shall be attributed to

1 the official or employee for the purpose of determining whether the  
2 limit has been exceeded, unless an independent business, family, or  
3 social relationship exists between the donor and the family member or  
4 guest.

5 ~~((+2))~~ (4) Except as provided in subsection ~~((+4))~~ (6) of this  
6 section, the following items are presumed not to influence under  
7 ~~((RCW 42.52.140))~~ subsection (3) of this section, and may be accepted  
8 without regard to the limit established by subsection ~~((+1))~~ (3) of  
9 this section:

10 (a) Unsolicited flowers, plants, and floral arrangements;

11 (b) Unsolicited advertising or promotional items of nominal  
12 value, such as pens and note pads;

13 (c) Unsolicited tokens or awards of appreciation in the form of a  
14 plaque, trophy, desk item, wall memento, or similar item;

15 (d) Unsolicited items received by a state officer or state  
16 employee for the purpose of evaluation or review, if the officer or  
17 employee has no personal beneficial interest in the eventual use or  
18 acquisition of the item by the officer's or employee's agency;

19 (e) Informational material, publications, or subscriptions  
20 related to the recipient's performance of official duties;

21 (f) Food and beverages consumed at hosted receptions where  
22 attendance is related to the state officer's or state employee's  
23 official duties;

24 (g) Gifts, grants, conveyances, bequests, and devises of real or  
25 personal property, or both, in trust or otherwise accepted and  
26 solicited for deposit in the legislative international trade account  
27 created in RCW 43.15.050;

28 ~~((Gifts, grants, conveyances, bequests, and devises of real  
29 or personal property, or both, in trust or otherwise accepted and  
30 solicited for the purpose of promoting the expansion of tourism as  
31 provided for in RCW 43.330.090;~~

32 ~~(+))~~ Gifts, grants, conveyances, bequests, and devises of real  
33 or personal property, or both, solicited on behalf of a national or  
34 regional legislative association as defined in RCW 42.52.822(2), the  
35 2006 official conference of the national lieutenant governors'  
36 association, the annual conference of the national association of  
37 state treasurers, or a host committee, for the purpose of hosting an  
38 official conference under the circumstances specified in RCW  
39 42.52.820, section 2, chapter 5, Laws of 2006, RCW 42.52.821, or RCW  
40 42.52.822. Anything solicited or accepted may only be received by the

1 national association or host committee and may not be commingled with  
2 any funds or accounts that are the property of any person;

3 ~~((j))~~ (i) Admission to, and the cost of food and beverages  
4 consumed at, events sponsored by or in conjunction with a civic,  
5 charitable, governmental, or community organization;

6 ~~((k))~~ (j) Unsolicited gifts from dignitaries from another state  
7 or a foreign country that are intended to be personal in nature;  
8 ~~(and~~

9 ~~(l))~~ (k) Gifts, grants, donations, sponsorships, or  
10 contributions from any agency or federal or local government agency  
11 or program or private source for the purposes of chapter 28B.156 RCW;  
12 and

13 (l) Unsolicited gifts received by legislative employees from a  
14 legislator.

15 ~~((3))~~ (5) The presumption in subsection ~~((2))~~ (4) of this  
16 section is rebuttable and may be overcome based on the circumstances  
17 surrounding the giving and acceptance of the item.

18 ~~((4))~~ (6) Notwithstanding subsections ~~((2) and (5))~~ (4) and  
19 (7) of this section, a state officer or state employee of a  
20 regulatory agency or of an agency that seeks to acquire goods or  
21 services who participates in those regulatory or contractual matters  
22 may receive, accept, take, or seek, directly or indirectly, only the  
23 following items from a person regulated by the agency or from a  
24 person who seeks to provide goods or services to the agency:

25 (a) Unsolicited advertising or promotional items of nominal  
26 value, such as pens and note pads;

27 (b) Unsolicited tokens or awards of appreciation in the form of a  
28 plaque, trophy, desk item, wall memento, or similar item;

29 (c) Unsolicited items received by a state officer or state  
30 employee for the purpose of evaluation or review, if the officer or  
31 employee has no personal ~~(beneficial)~~ interest in the eventual use  
32 or acquisition of the item by the officer's or employee's agency;

33 (d) Informational material, publications, or subscriptions  
34 related to the recipient's performance of official duties;

35 (e) Food and beverages consumed at hosted receptions where  
36 attendance is related to the state officer's or state employee's  
37 official duties;

38 (f) Admission to, and the cost of food and beverages consumed at,  
39 events sponsored by or in conjunction with a civic, charitable,  
40 governmental, or community organization; and

1 (g) Those items excluded from the definition of gift in ((RCW  
2 42.52.010)) subsection (1)(c) of this section except:

3 (i) Payments by a governmental or nongovernmental entity of  
4 reasonable expenses incurred in connection with a speech,  
5 presentation, appearance, or trade mission made in an official  
6 capacity;

7 (ii) Payments for seminars and educational programs sponsored by  
8 a bona fide governmental or nonprofit professional, educational,  
9 trade, or charitable association or institution; and

10 (iii) Flowers, plants, and floral arrangements.

11 ((+5)) (7) A state officer or state employee may accept gifts in  
12 the form of food and beverage on infrequent occasions in the ordinary  
13 course of meals where attendance by the officer or employee is  
14 related to the performance of official duties. Gifts in the form of  
15 food and beverage that exceed ((fifty dollars)) \$100 on a single  
16 occasion shall be reported as provided in chapter 42.17A RCW.

17 **Sec. 10.** RCW 42.52.150 and 2024 c 164 s 514 are each amended to  
18 read as follows:

19 (1)(a) Unless the context requires otherwise, the definition of  
20 "gift" in this subsection applies throughout this chapter.

21 (b) "Gift" means anything of economic value for which no  
22 consideration is given.

23 (c) "Gift" does not include the following:

24 (i) Items from family members or friends where it is clear beyond  
25 a reasonable doubt that the gift was not made as part of any design  
26 to gain or maintain influence in the agency of which the recipient is  
27 an officer or employee;

28 (ii) Items related to the outside business of the recipient that  
29 are customary and not related to the recipient's performance of  
30 official duties;

31 (iii) Items exchanged among officials and employees at a social  
32 event hosted or sponsored by a state officer or state employee for  
33 coworkers;

34 (iv) Payments by a governmental or nongovernmental entity of  
35 reasonable expenses incurred in connection with a speech,  
36 presentation, appearance, or trade mission made in an official  
37 capacity. As used in this subsection, "reasonable expenses" are  
38 limited to travel, lodging, and subsistence expenses incurred the day  
39 before through the day after the event;

1 (v) Items a state officer or state employee is authorized by law  
2 to accept;

3 (vi) Payment of enrollment and course fees and reasonable travel  
4 expenses attributable to attending seminars and educational programs  
5 sponsored by a bona fide governmental or nonprofit professional,  
6 educational, trade, or charitable association or institution. As used  
7 in this subsection, "reasonable expenses" are limited to travel,  
8 lodging, and subsistence expenses incurred the day before through the  
9 day after the event;

10 (vii) Items returned by the recipient to the donor within 30 days  
11 of receipt or donated to a charitable organization within 30 days of  
12 receipt;

13 (viii) Campaign contributions reported under chapter 42.17A RCW;

14 (ix) Discounts available to an individual as a member of an  
15 employee group, occupation, or similar broad-based group;

16 (x) Awards, prizes, scholarships, or other items provided in  
17 recognition of academic or scientific achievement; and

18 (xi) Gift cards received by legislative employees in an amount of  
19 \$25 or less.

20 (2) No state officer or state employee may receive, accept, take,  
21 seek, or solicit, directly or indirectly, any thing of economic value  
22 as a gift, gratuity, or favor from a person if it could be reasonably  
23 expected that the gift, gratuity, or favor would influence the vote,  
24 action, or judgment of the officer or employee, or be considered as  
25 part of a reward for action or inaction.

26 (3) No state officer or state employee may accept gifts, other  
27 than those specified in subsections (~~((2) and (5))~~) (4) and (7) of  
28 this section, with an aggregate value in excess of (~~(fifty dollars)~~)  
29 \$100 from a single source in a calendar year or a single gift from  
30 multiple sources with a value in excess of (~~(fifty dollars)~~) \$100.  
31 For purposes of this section, "single source" means any person, as  
32 defined in RCW 42.52.010, whether acting directly or through any  
33 agent or other intermediary, and "single gift" includes any event,  
34 item, or group of items used in conjunction with each other or any  
35 trip including transportation, lodging, and attendant costs, not  
36 excluded from the definition of gift under (~~(RCW 42.52.010)~~)  
37 subsection (1)(c) of this section. The value of gifts given to an  
38 officer's or employee's family member or guest shall be attributed to  
39 the official or employee for the purpose of determining whether the  
40 limit has been exceeded, unless an independent business, family, or

1 social relationship exists between the donor and the family member or  
2 guest.

3 ~~((2))~~ (4) Except as provided in subsection ~~((4))~~ (6) of this  
4 section, the following items are presumed not to influence under  
5 ~~((RCW 42.52.140))~~ subsection (3) of this section, and may be accepted  
6 without regard to the limit established by subsection ~~((1))~~ (3) of  
7 this section:

8 (a) Unsolicited flowers, plants, and floral arrangements;

9 (b) Unsolicited advertising or promotional items of nominal  
10 value, such as pens and note pads;

11 (c) Unsolicited tokens or awards of appreciation in the form of a  
12 plaque, trophy, desk item, wall memento, or similar item;

13 (d) Unsolicited items received by a state officer or state  
14 employee for the purpose of evaluation or review, if the officer or  
15 employee has no personal beneficial interest in the eventual use or  
16 acquisition of the item by the officer's or employee's agency;

17 (e) Informational material, publications, or subscriptions  
18 related to the recipient's performance of official duties;

19 (f) Food and beverages consumed at hosted receptions where  
20 attendance is related to the state officer's or state employee's  
21 official duties;

22 (g) Gifts, grants, conveyances, bequests, and devises of real or  
23 personal property, or both, in trust or otherwise accepted and  
24 solicited for deposit in the legislative international trade account  
25 created in RCW 43.15.050;

26 ~~((Gifts, grants, conveyances, bequests, and devises of real  
27 or personal property, or both, in trust or otherwise accepted and  
28 solicited for the purpose of promoting the expansion of tourism as  
29 provided for in RCW 43.330.090;~~

30 ~~(i))~~ Gifts, grants, conveyances, bequests, and devises of real  
31 or personal property, or both, solicited on behalf of a national or  
32 regional legislative association as defined in RCW 42.52.822(2), the  
33 2006 official conference of the national lieutenant governors'  
34 association, the annual conference of the national association of  
35 state treasurers, or a host committee, for the purpose of hosting an  
36 official conference under the circumstances specified in RCW  
37 42.52.820, section 2, chapter 5, Laws of 2006, RCW 42.52.821, or RCW  
38 42.52.822. Anything solicited or accepted may only be received by the  
39 national association or host committee and may not be commingled with  
40 any funds or accounts that are the property of any person;

1       ~~((j))~~ (i) Admission to, and the cost of food and beverages  
2 consumed at, events sponsored by or in conjunction with a civic,  
3 charitable, governmental, or community organization;

4       ~~((k))~~ (j) Unsolicited gifts from dignitaries from another state  
5 or a foreign country that are intended to be personal in nature;  
6 ~~(and~~

7       ~~(l))~~ (k) Gifts, grants, donations, sponsorships, or  
8 contributions from any agency or federal or local government agency  
9 or program or private source for the purposes of chapter 28B.156 RCW;  
10 and

11       (l) Unsolicited gifts received by legislative employees from a  
12 legislator.

13       ~~((3))~~ (5) The presumption in subsection ~~((2))~~ (4) of this  
14 section is rebuttable and may be overcome based on the circumstances  
15 surrounding the giving and acceptance of the item.

16       ~~((4))~~ (6) Notwithstanding subsections ~~((2) and (5))~~ (4) and  
17 (7) of this section, a state officer or state employee of a  
18 regulatory agency or of an agency that seeks to acquire goods or  
19 services who participates in those regulatory or contractual matters  
20 may receive, accept, take, or seek, directly or indirectly, only the  
21 following items from a person regulated by the agency or from a  
22 person who seeks to provide goods or services to the agency:

23       (a) Unsolicited advertising or promotional items of nominal  
24 value, such as pens and note pads;

25       (b) Unsolicited tokens or awards of appreciation in the form of a  
26 plaque, trophy, desk item, wall memento, or similar item;

27       (c) Unsolicited items received by a state officer or state  
28 employee for the purpose of evaluation or review, if the officer or  
29 employee has no personal ~~((beneficial))~~ interest in the eventual use  
30 or acquisition of the item by the officer's or employee's agency;

31       (d) Informational material, publications, or subscriptions  
32 related to the recipient's performance of official duties;

33       (e) Food and beverages consumed at hosted receptions where  
34 attendance is related to the state officer's or state employee's  
35 official duties;

36       (f) Admission to, and the cost of food and beverages consumed at,  
37 events sponsored by or in conjunction with a civic, charitable,  
38 governmental, or community organization; and

39       (g) Those items excluded from the definition of gift in ~~((RCW~~  
40 ~~42.52.010))~~ subsection (1)(c) of this section except:



1 (i) Payments by a governmental or nongovernmental entity of  
2 reasonable expenses incurred in connection with a speech,  
3 presentation, appearance, or trade mission made in an official  
4 capacity;

5 (ii) Payments for seminars and educational programs sponsored by  
6 a bona fide governmental or nonprofit professional, educational,  
7 trade, or charitable association or institution; and

8 (iii) Flowers, plants, and floral arrangements.

9 ~~((5))~~ (7) A state officer or state employee may accept gifts in  
10 the form of food and beverage on infrequent occasions in the ordinary  
11 course of meals where attendance by the officer or employee is  
12 related to the performance of official duties. Gifts in the form of  
13 food and beverage that exceed ~~((fifty dollars))~~ \$100 on a single  
14 occasion shall be reported as provided in Title 29B RCW.

15 **Sec. 11.** RCW 42.52.160 and 2024 c 333 s 21 are each amended to  
16 read as follows:

17 (1) No state officer or state employee may employ or use any  
18 person, money, or property under the officer's or employee's official  
19 control or direction, or in his or her official custody, for the  
20 private benefit or gain of the officer, employee, or another.

21 (2) This section does not prohibit the use of public resources to  
22 benefit others as part of a state officer's or state employee's  
23 official duties. It is not a violation of this section for a  
24 legislator or ~~((an appropriate legislative staff designee))~~ employees  
25 under the jurisdiction of the legislative ethics board to engage in  
26 activities listed under RCW ~~((42.52.070(2) or))~~ 42.52.822 or section  
27 12 of this act.

28 (3) This section does not prohibit de minimis use of state  
29 facilities to provide employees with information about (a) medical,  
30 surgical, and hospital care; (b) life insurance or accident and  
31 health disability insurance; or (c) individual retirement accounts,  
32 by any person, firm, or corporation administering such program as  
33 part of authorized payroll deductions pursuant to RCW 41.04.020.

34 (4) The appropriate ethics boards may adopt rules providing  
35 exceptions to this section for occasional use of the state officer or  
36 state employee, of de minimis cost and value, if the activity does  
37 not result in interference with the proper performance of ~~((public))~~  
38 official duties.

1 (5) This section does not apply to activities conducted by  
2 legislative employees authorized under RCW 44.90.110.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 12.** A new section is added to chapter 42.52  
4 RCW to read as follows:

5 (1) This section applies to legislators and employees under the  
6 jurisdiction of the legislative ethics board.

7 (2) Legislative nexus means activities by legislators and staff  
8 having a reasonably objective connection to the legislator's or  
9 staff's official duties or to the policy or programmatic prerogatives  
10 of the legislature, or the legislative institution. In cases where  
11 legislative nexus is required for the use of state resources,  
12 activities with a per se tangible legislative nexus also include the  
13 following:

14 (a) Communications directly pertaining to any legislative  
15 proposal which has been introduced in either chamber of the  
16 legislature; and

17 (b) Posting information to a legislator's official legislative  
18 website or social media account about:

19 (i) Emergencies;

20 (ii) Federal holidays, state holidays recognized under RCW  
21 1.16.050, religious holidays, and generally recognized days or months  
22 of note;

23 (iii) Information originally provided or published by other  
24 government entities which provide information about government  
25 resources; and

26 (iv) Achievements, honors, or awards of extraordinary distinction  
27 received by a constituent who has granted permission to post about  
28 the achievement, honor, or award.

29 **Sec. 13.** RCW 42.52.180 and 2022 c 37 s 3 are each amended to  
30 read as follows:

31 (1) No state officer or state employee may use or authorize the  
32 use of facilities of an agency, directly or indirectly, for the  
33 purpose of assisting a campaign for election of a person to an office  
34 or for the promotion of or opposition to a ballot proposition.  
35 Knowing acquiescence by a person with authority to direct, control,  
36 or influence the actions of the state officer or state employee using  
37 public resources in violation of this section constitutes a violation  
38 of this section. Facilities of an agency include, but are not limited

1 to, use of stationery, postage, machines, and equipment, use of state  
2 employees of the agency during working hours, vehicles, office space,  
3 publications of the agency, and clientele lists of persons served by  
4 the agency.

5 (2) This section shall not apply to the following activities:

6 (a) Action taken at an open public meeting by members of an  
7 elected legislative body to express a collective decision, or to  
8 actually vote upon a motion, proposal, resolution, order, or  
9 ordinance, or to support or oppose a ballot proposition as long as  
10 (i) required notice of the meeting includes the title and number of  
11 the ballot proposition, and (ii) members of the legislative body or  
12 members of the public are afforded an approximately equal opportunity  
13 for the expression of an opposing view;

14 (b) A statement by an elected official in support of or in  
15 opposition to any ballot proposition at an open press conference or  
16 in response to a specific inquiry. For the purposes of this  
17 subsection, it is not a violation of this section for an elected  
18 official to respond to an inquiry regarding a ballot proposition, to  
19 make incidental remarks concerning a ballot proposition in an  
20 official communication, or otherwise comment on a ballot proposition  
21 without an actual, measurable expenditure of public funds. The ethics  
22 boards shall adopt by rule a definition of measurable expenditure;

23 (c) (i) The maintenance of official legislative websites  
24 throughout the year, regardless of pending elections. The websites  
25 may contain any discretionary material which was also specifically  
26 prepared for the legislator in the course of his or her official  
27 duties as a legislator, including newsletters and press releases.

28 (ii) The official legislative websites of legislators seeking  
29 reelection or election to any office shall not be altered, other than  
30 during a special legislative session or to change office contact  
31 information, beginning on the first day of the declaration of  
32 candidacy filing period specified in RCW 29A.24.050 through the date  
33 of certification by the secretary of state of the general election of  
34 the election year. As used in this subsection, "legislator" means a  
35 legislator who is a "candidate," as defined in RCW 42.17A.005, for  
36 any public office. "Legislator" does not include a member of the  
37 legislature who has announced their retirement from elected public  
38 office and who does not file a declaration of candidacy by the end of  
39 the candidacy filing period specified in RCW 29A.24.050.

40 (iii) The website shall not be used for campaign purposes;

1 (d) Activities that are part of the normal and regular conduct of  
2 the office or agency(~~(, which include but are not limited to:~~

3 ~~(i) Communications by a legislator or appropriate legislative~~  
4 ~~staff designee directly pertaining to any legislative proposal which~~  
5 ~~has been introduced in either chamber of the legislature; and~~

6 ~~(ii) Posting, by a legislator or appropriate legislative staff~~  
7 ~~designee, information to a legislator's official legislative website~~  
8 ~~including an official legislative social media account, about:~~

9 ~~(A) Emergencies;~~

10 ~~(B) Federal holidays, state and legislatively recognized holidays~~  
11 ~~established under RCW 1.16.050, and religious holidays;~~

12 ~~(C) Information originally provided or published by other~~  
13 ~~government entities which provide information about government~~  
14 ~~resources; and~~

15 ~~(D) Achievements, honors, or awards of extraordinary~~  
16 ~~distinction)); and~~

17 (e) De minimis use of public facilities by statewide elected  
18 officials and legislators incidental to the preparation or delivery  
19 of permissible communications, including written and verbal  
20 communications initiated by them of their views on ballot  
21 propositions that foreseeably may affect a matter that falls within  
22 their constitutional or statutory responsibilities.

23 (3) As to state officers and employees, this section operates to  
24 the exclusion of RCW 42.17A.555.

25 (4) As used in this section, "official legislative website"  
26 includes, but is not limited to, a legislator's official legislative  
27 social media accounts.

28 **Sec. 14.** RCW 42.52.180 and 2024 c 164 s 515 are each amended to  
29 read as follows:

30 (1) No state officer or state employee may use or authorize the  
31 use of facilities of an agency, directly or indirectly, for the  
32 purpose of assisting a campaign for election of a person to an office  
33 or for the promotion of or opposition to a ballot proposition.  
34 Knowing acquiescence by a person with authority to direct, control,  
35 or influence the actions of the state officer or state employee using  
36 public resources in violation of this section constitutes a violation  
37 of this section. Facilities of an agency include, but are not limited  
38 to, use of stationery, postage, machines, and equipment, use of state  
39 employees of the agency during working hours, vehicles, office space,

1 publications of the agency, and clientele lists of persons served by  
2 the agency.

3 (2) This section shall not apply to the following activities:

4 (a) Action taken at an open public meeting by members of an  
5 elected legislative body to express a collective decision, or to  
6 actually vote upon a motion, proposal, resolution, order, or  
7 ordinance, or to support or oppose a ballot proposition as long as  
8 (i) required notice of the meeting includes the title and number of  
9 the ballot proposition, and (ii) members of the legislative body or  
10 members of the public are afforded an approximately equal opportunity  
11 for the expression of an opposing view;

12 (b) A statement by an elected official in support of or in  
13 opposition to any ballot proposition at an open press conference or  
14 in response to a specific inquiry. For the purposes of this  
15 subsection, it is not a violation of this section for an elected  
16 official to respond to an inquiry regarding a ballot proposition, to  
17 make incidental remarks concerning a ballot proposition in an  
18 official communication, or otherwise comment on a ballot proposition  
19 without an actual, measurable expenditure of public funds. The ethics  
20 boards shall adopt by rule a definition of measurable expenditure;

21 (c) (i) The maintenance of official legislative websites  
22 throughout the year, regardless of pending elections. The websites  
23 may contain any discretionary material which was also specifically  
24 prepared for the legislator in the course of his or her official  
25 duties as a legislator, including newsletters and press releases.

26 (ii) The official legislative websites of legislators seeking  
27 reelection or election to any office shall not be altered, other than  
28 during a special legislative session or to change office contact  
29 information, beginning on the first day of the declaration of  
30 candidacy filing period specified in RCW 29A.24.050 through the date  
31 of certification by the secretary of state of the general election of  
32 the election year. As used in this subsection, "legislator" means a  
33 legislator who is a "candidate," as defined in RCW 29B.10.090, for  
34 any public office. "Legislator" does not include a member of the  
35 legislature who has announced their retirement from elected public  
36 office and who does not file a declaration of candidacy by the end of  
37 the candidacy filing period specified in RCW 29A.24.050.

38 (iii) The website shall not be used for campaign purposes;

39 (d) Activities that are part of the normal and regular conduct of  
40 the office or agency (~~(, which include but are not limited to:~~

1 ~~(i) Communications by a legislator or appropriate legislative~~  
2 ~~staff designee directly pertaining to any legislative proposal which~~  
3 ~~has been introduced in either chamber of the legislature; and~~

4 ~~(ii) Posting, by a legislator or appropriate legislative staff~~  
5 ~~designee, information to a legislator's official legislative website~~  
6 ~~including an official legislative social media account, about:~~

7 ~~(A) Emergencies;~~

8 ~~(B) Federal holidays, state and legislatively recognized holidays~~  
9 ~~established under RCW 1.16.050, and religious holidays;~~

10 ~~(C) Information originally provided or published by other~~  
11 ~~government entities which provide information about government~~  
12 ~~resources; and~~

13 ~~(D) Achievements, honors, or awards of extraordinary~~  
14 ~~distinction)); and~~

15 (e) De minimis use of public facilities by statewide elected  
16 officials and legislators incidental to the preparation or delivery  
17 of permissible communications, including written and verbal  
18 communications initiated by them of their views on ballot  
19 propositions that foreseeably may affect a matter that falls within  
20 their constitutional or statutory responsibilities.

21 (3) As to state officers and employees, this section operates to  
22 the exclusion of RCW 29B.45.010.

23 (4) As used in this section, "official legislative website"  
24 includes, but is not limited to, a legislator's official legislative  
25 social media accounts.

26 **Sec. 15.** RCW 42.52.220 and 2022 c 173 s 3 are each amended to  
27 read as follows:

28 (1) Consistent with the state policy to encourage basic and  
29 applied scientific research by the state's research universities as  
30 stated in RCW 28B.140.005, and consistent with the expectations of  
31 university faculty to produce, publish, and disseminate research and  
32 scholarship, each university and the state board for community and  
33 technical colleges may develop, adopt, and implement one or more  
34 written administrative processes that shall apply in place of the  
35 obligations imposed on institutions of higher education, faculty, and  
36 university research employees under RCW 42.52.030, 42.52.040,  
37 42.52.080, 42.52.110, 42.52.120, 42.52.130, ((42.52.140,)) 42.52.150,  
38 and 42.52.160. The institutions of higher education shall coordinate  
39 on the development of administrative processes to ensure the

1 processes are comparable. Each policy shall apply upon approval by  
2 boards of trustees or regents for the state universities, regional  
3 universities, and The Evergreen State College, or by the state board  
4 for community and technical colleges. Each board of trustees or  
5 regents and the state board for community and technical colleges must  
6 provide the executive ethics board with a copy of each institution's  
7 policy upon approval. A faculty member or university research  
8 employee in compliance with the processes authorized in this section  
9 shall be deemed to be in compliance with RCW 42.52.030, 42.52.040,  
10 42.52.080, 42.52.110, 42.52.120, 42.52.130, (~~42.52.140,~~) 42.52.150,  
11 and 42.52.160.

12 (2) The executive ethics board shall enforce activity subject to  
13 the written approval processes under this section, as provided in RCW  
14 42.52.360.

15 **Sec. 16.** RCW 42.52.320 and 1994 c 154 s 202 are each amended to  
16 read as follows:

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

20 (2) The legislative ethics board shall:

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

23 (b) Issue advisory opinions;

24 (c) Adopt rules or policies governing the conduct of business by  
25 the board, and adopt rules defining working hours for purposes of RCW  
26 42.52.180 and where otherwise authorized under chapter 154, Laws of  
27 1994;

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

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

31 (f) Recommend suspension or removal to the appropriate  
32 legislative entity, or recommend prosecution to the appropriate  
33 authority; and

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

37 (3) The board may:

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

4 (b) Administer oaths and affirmations;

5 (c) Examine witnesses; and

6 (d) Receive evidence.

7 ~~((4) Subject to RCW 42.52.540, the board has jurisdiction over  
8 any alleged violation that occurred before January 1, 1995, and that  
9 was within the jurisdiction of any of the boards established under  
10 chapter 44.60 RCW. The board's jurisdiction with respect to any such  
11 alleged violation shall be based on the statutes and rules in effect  
12 at [the] time of the violation.))~~

13 **Sec. 17.** RCW 42.52.480 and 1994 c 154 s 218 are each amended to  
14 read as follows:

15 (1) Except as otherwise provided by law, an ethics board may  
16 order payment of the following amounts if it finds a violation of  
17 this chapter or rules adopted under it after a hearing under RCW  
18 42.52.370 or other applicable law:

19 (a) Any damages sustained by the state that are caused by the  
20 conduct constituting the violation;

21 (b) From each such person, a civil penalty of up to five thousand  
22 dollars per violation or three times the economic value of any thing  
23 received or sought in violation of this chapter or rules adopted  
24 under it, whichever is greater; and

25 (c) Costs, including reasonable investigative ~~((costs, which  
26 shall be included as part of the limit under (b) of this subsection.  
27 The costs may not exceed the penalty imposed. The payment owed on the  
28 penalty shall be reduced by the amount of the costs paid))~~ expenses.

29 (2) Damages under this section may be enforced in the same manner  
30 as a judgment in a civil case.

31 **Sec. 18.** RCW 42.52.490 and 1994 c 154 s 219 are each amended to  
32 read as follows:

33 (1) Upon a written determination by the attorney general that the  
34 action of an ethics board was clearly erroneous or if requested by an  
35 ethics board, the attorney general may bring a civil action in the  
36 superior court of the county in which the violation is alleged to  
37 have occurred against a state officer, state employee, former state  
38 officer, former state employee, or other person who has violated or



1 knowingly assisted another person in violating any of the provisions  
2 of this chapter or the rules adopted under it. In such action the  
3 attorney general may recover the following amounts on behalf of the  
4 state of Washington:

5 (a) Any damages sustained by the state that are caused by the  
6 conduct constituting the violation;

7 (b) From each such person, a civil penalty of up to five thousand  
8 dollars per violation or three times the economic value of any thing  
9 received or sought in violation of this chapter or the rules adopted  
10 under it, whichever is greater; and

11 (c) Costs, including reasonable investigative (~~costs, which~~  
12 ~~shall be included as part of the limit under (b) of this subsection.~~  
13 ~~The costs may not exceed the penalty imposed. The payment owed on the~~  
14 ~~penalty shall be reduced by the amount of the costs paid~~) expenses.

15 (2) In any civil action brought by the attorney general upon the  
16 basis that the attorney general has determined that the board's  
17 action was clearly erroneous, the court shall not proceed with the  
18 action unless the attorney general has first shown, and the court has  
19 found, that the action of the board was clearly erroneous.

20 **Sec. 19.** RCW 42.52.805 and 2007 c 452 s 2 are each amended to  
21 read as follows:

22 (1) When soliciting gifts, grants, or donations solely to support  
23 the charitable activities of executive branch state employees  
24 conducted pursuant to RCW 9.46.0209, the executive branch state  
25 officers and executive branch state employees are presumed not to be  
26 in violation of the solicitation and receipt of gift provisions in  
27 RCW (~~42.52.140~~) 42.52.150(3). However, the gifts, grants, or  
28 donations must only be solicited from state employees or businesses  
29 and organizations that have no business dealings with the soliciting  
30 employee's agency. For the purposes of this subsection, "business  
31 dealings" includes being subject to regulation by the agency, having  
32 a contractual relationship with the agency, and purchasing goods or  
33 services from the agency.

34 (2) For purposes of this section, activities are deemed to be  
35 charitable if the activities are devoted to the purposes authorized  
36 under RCW 9.46.0209 for charitable and nonprofit organizations listed  
37 in that section, or are in support of the activities of those  
38 charitable or nonprofit organizations.

1       **Sec. 20.** RCW 42.52.810 and 2005 c 274 s 293 are each amended to  
2 read as follows:

3       (1) When soliciting charitable gifts, grants, or donations solely  
4 for the legislative international trade account created in RCW  
5 (~~44.04.270~~) 43.15.050, the president of the senate is presumed not  
6 to be in violation of the solicitation and receipt of gift provisions  
7 in RCW (~~42.52.140~~) 42.52.150(3).

8       (2) When soliciting charitable gifts, grants, or donations solely  
9 for the legislative international trade account created in RCW  
10 (~~44.04.270~~) 43.15.050, state officers and state employees are  
11 presumed not to be in violation of the solicitation and receipt of  
12 gift provisions in RCW (~~42.52.140~~) 42.52.150(3).

13       (3) An annual report of the legislative international trade  
14 account activities, including a list of receipts and expenditures,  
15 shall be published by the president of the senate and submitted to  
16 the house of representatives and the senate and be a public record  
17 for the purposes of RCW 42.56.070.

18       **Sec. 21.** RCW 42.17A.005 and 2022 c 71 s 14 are each amended to  
19 read as follows:

20       The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter  
21 unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

22       (1) "Actual malice" means to act with knowledge of falsity or  
23 with reckless disregard as to truth or falsity.

24       (2) "Agency" includes all state agencies and all local agencies.  
25 "State agency" includes every state office, department, division,  
26 bureau, board, commission, or other state agency. "Local agency"  
27 includes every county, city, town, municipal corporation, quasi-  
28 municipal corporation, or special purpose district, or any office,  
29 department, division, bureau, board, commission, or agency thereof,  
30 or other local public agency. "Agency" does not include a  
31 comprehensive cancer center participating in a collaborative  
32 arrangement as defined in RCW 28B.10.930 that is operated in  
33 conformance with RCW 28B.10.930.

34       (3) "Authorized committee" means the political committee  
35 authorized by a candidate, or by the public official against whom  
36 recall charges have been filed, to accept contributions or make  
37 expenditures on behalf of the candidate or public official.

38       (4) "Ballot proposition" means any "measure" as defined by RCW  
39 29A.04.091, or any initiative, recall, or referendum proposition

1 proposed to be submitted to the voters of the state or any municipal  
2 corporation, political subdivision, or other voting constituency from  
3 and after the time when the proposition has been initially filed with  
4 the appropriate election officer of that constituency before its  
5 circulation for signatures.

6 (5) "Benefit" means a commercial, proprietary, financial,  
7 economic, or monetary advantage, or the avoidance of a commercial,  
8 proprietary, financial, economic, or monetary disadvantage.

9 (6) "Bona fide political party" means:

10 (a) An organization that has been recognized as a minor political  
11 party by the secretary of state;

12 (b) The governing body of the state organization of a major  
13 political party, as defined in RCW 29A.04.086, that is the body  
14 authorized by the charter or bylaws of the party to exercise  
15 authority on behalf of the state party; or

16 (c) The county central committee or legislative district  
17 committee of a major political party. There may be only one  
18 legislative district committee for each party in each legislative  
19 district.

20 (7) "Books of account" means:

21 (a) In the case of a campaign or political committee, a ledger or  
22 similar listing of contributions, expenditures, and debts, such as a  
23 campaign or committee is required to file regularly with the  
24 commission, current as of the most recent business day; or

25 (b) In the case of a commercial advertiser, details of political  
26 advertising or electioneering communications provided by the  
27 advertiser, including the names and addresses of persons from whom it  
28 accepted political advertising or electioneering communications, the  
29 exact nature and extent of the services rendered and the total cost  
30 and the manner of payment for the services.

31 (8) "Candidate" means any individual who seeks nomination for  
32 election or election to public office. An individual seeks nomination  
33 or election when the individual first:

34 (a) Receives contributions or makes expenditures or reserves  
35 space or facilities with intent to promote the individual's candidacy  
36 for office;

37 (b) Announces publicly or files for office;

38 (c) Purchases commercial advertising space or broadcast time to  
39 promote the individual's candidacy; or

1 (d) Gives consent to another person to take on behalf of the  
2 individual any of the actions in (a) or (c) of this subsection.

3 (9) "Caucus political committee" means a political committee  
4 organized and maintained by the members of a major political party in  
5 the state senate or state house of representatives.

6 (10) "Commercial advertiser" means any person that sells the  
7 service of communicating messages or producing material for broadcast  
8 or distribution to the general public or segments of the general  
9 public whether through brochures, fliers, newspapers, magazines,  
10 television, radio, billboards, direct mail advertising, printing,  
11 paid internet or digital communications, or any other means of mass  
12 communications used for the purpose of appealing, directly or  
13 indirectly, for votes or for financial or other support in any  
14 election campaign.

15 (11) "Commission" means the agency established under RCW  
16 42.17A.100.

17 (12) "Committee" unless the context indicates otherwise, includes  
18 a political committee such as a candidate, ballot proposition,  
19 recall, political, or continuing political committee.

20 (13) "Compensation" unless the context requires a narrower  
21 meaning, includes payment in any form for real or personal property  
22 or services of any kind. For the purpose of compliance with RCW  
23 42.17A.710, "compensation" does not include per diem allowances or  
24 other payments made by a governmental entity to reimburse a public  
25 official for expenses incurred while the official is engaged in the  
26 official business of the governmental entity.

27 (14) "Continuing political committee" means a political committee  
28 that is an organization of continuing existence not limited to  
29 participation in any particular election campaign or election cycle.

30 (15)(a) "Contribution" includes:

31 (i) A loan, gift, deposit, subscription, forgiveness of  
32 indebtedness, donation, advance, pledge, payment, transfer of funds,  
33 or anything of value, including personal and professional services  
34 for less than full consideration;

35 (ii) An expenditure made by a person in cooperation,  
36 consultation, or concert with, or at the request or suggestion of, a  
37 candidate, a political or incidental committee, the person or persons  
38 named on the candidate's or committee's registration form who direct  
39 expenditures on behalf of the candidate or committee, or their  
40 agents;

1 (iii) The financing by a person of the dissemination,  
2 distribution, or republication, in whole or in part, of broadcast,  
3 written, graphic, digital, or other form of political advertising or  
4 electioneering communication prepared by a candidate, a political or  
5 incidental committee, or its authorized agent;

6 (iv) Sums paid for tickets to fund-raising events such as dinners  
7 and parties, except for the actual cost of the consumables furnished  
8 at the event.

9 (b) "Contribution" does not include:

10 (i) Accrued interest on money deposited in a political or  
11 incidental committee's account;

12 (ii) Ordinary home hospitality;

13 (iii) A contribution received by a candidate or political or  
14 incidental committee that is returned to the contributor within ten  
15 business days of the date on which it is received by the candidate or  
16 political or incidental committee;

17 (iv) A news item, feature, commentary, or editorial in a  
18 regularly scheduled news medium that is of interest to the public,  
19 that is in a news medium controlled by a person whose business is  
20 that news medium, and that is not controlled by a candidate or a  
21 political or incidental committee;

22 (v) An internal political communication primarily limited to the  
23 members of or contributors to a political party organization or  
24 political or incidental committee, or to the officers, management  
25 staff, or stockholders of a corporation or similar enterprise, or to  
26 the members of a labor organization or other membership organization;

27 (vi) The rendering of personal services of the sort commonly  
28 performed by volunteer campaign workers, or incidental expenses  
29 personally incurred by volunteer campaign workers not in excess of  
30 fifty dollars personally paid for by the worker. "Volunteer  
31 services," for the purposes of this subsection, means services or  
32 labor for which the individual is not compensated by any person;

33 (vii) Messages in the form of reader boards, banners, or yard or  
34 window signs displayed on a person's own property or property  
35 occupied by a person. However, a facility used for such political  
36 advertising for which a rental charge is normally made must be  
37 reported as an in-kind contribution and counts toward any applicable  
38 contribution limit of the person providing the facility;

39 (viii) Legal or accounting services rendered to or on behalf of:

1 (A) A political party or caucus political committee if the person  
2 paying for the services is the regular employer of the person  
3 rendering such services; or

4 (B) A candidate or an authorized committee if the person paying  
5 for the services is the regular employer of the individual rendering  
6 the services and if the services are solely for the purpose of  
7 ensuring compliance with state election or public disclosure laws; or

8 (ix) The performance of ministerial functions by a person on  
9 behalf of two or more candidates or political or incidental  
10 committees either as volunteer services defined in (b)(vi) of this  
11 subsection or for payment by the candidate or political or incidental  
12 committee for whom the services are performed as long as:

13 (A) The person performs solely ministerial functions;

14 (B) A person who is paid by two or more candidates or political  
15 or incidental committees is identified by the candidates and  
16 political committees on whose behalf services are performed as part  
17 of their respective statements of organization under RCW 42.17A.205;  
18 and

19 (C) The person does not disclose, except as required by law, any  
20 information regarding a candidate's or committee's plans, projects,  
21 activities, or needs, or regarding a candidate's or committee's  
22 contributions or expenditures that is not already publicly available  
23 from campaign reports filed with the commission, or otherwise engage  
24 in activity that constitutes a contribution under (a)(ii) of this  
25 subsection.

26 A person who performs ministerial functions under this subsection  
27 (15)(b)(ix) is not considered an agent of the candidate or committee  
28 as long as the person has no authority to authorize expenditures or  
29 make decisions on behalf of the candidate or committee.

30 (c) Contributions other than money or its equivalent are deemed  
31 to have a monetary value equivalent to the fair market value of the  
32 contribution. Services or property or rights furnished at less than  
33 their fair market value for the purpose of assisting any candidate or  
34 political committee are deemed a contribution. Such a contribution  
35 must be reported as an in-kind contribution at its fair market value  
36 and counts towards any applicable contribution limit of the provider.

37 (16) "Depository" means a bank, mutual savings bank, savings and  
38 loan association, or credit union doing business in this state.

1 (17) "Elected official" means any person elected at a general or  
2 special election to any public office, and any person appointed to  
3 fill a vacancy in any such office.

4 (18) "Election" includes any primary, general, or special  
5 election for public office and any election in which a ballot  
6 proposition is submitted to the voters. An election in which the  
7 qualifications for voting include other than those requirements set  
8 forth in Article VI, section 1 (Amendment 63) of the Constitution of  
9 the state of Washington shall not be considered an election for  
10 purposes of this chapter.

11 (19) "Election campaign" means any campaign in support of or in  
12 opposition to a candidate for election to public office and any  
13 campaign in support of, or in opposition to, a ballot proposition.

14 (20) "Election cycle" means the period beginning on the first day  
15 of January after the date of the last previous general election for  
16 the office that the candidate seeks and ending on December 31st after  
17 the next election for the office. In the case of a special election  
18 to fill a vacancy in an office, "election cycle" means the period  
19 beginning on the day the vacancy occurs and ending on December 31st  
20 after the special election.

21 (21)(a) "Electioneering communication" means any broadcast,  
22 cable, or satellite television, radio transmission, digital  
23 communication, United States postal service mailing, billboard,  
24 newspaper, or periodical that:

25 (i) Clearly identifies a candidate for a state, local, or  
26 judicial office either by specifically naming the candidate, or  
27 identifying the candidate without using the candidate's name;

28 (ii) Is broadcast, transmitted electronically or by other means,  
29 mailed, erected, distributed, or otherwise published within sixty  
30 days before any election for that office in the jurisdiction in which  
31 the candidate is seeking election; and

32 (iii) Either alone, or in combination with one or more  
33 communications identifying the candidate by the same sponsor during  
34 the sixty days before an election, has a fair market value or cost of  
35 one thousand dollars or more.

36 (b) "Electioneering communication" does not include:

37 (i) Usual and customary advertising of a business owned by a  
38 candidate, even if the candidate is mentioned in the advertising when  
39 the candidate has been regularly mentioned in that advertising

1 appearing at least twelve months preceding the candidate becoming a  
2 candidate;

3 (ii) Advertising for candidate debates or forums when the  
4 advertising is paid for by or on behalf of the debate or forum  
5 sponsor, so long as two or more candidates for the same position have  
6 been invited to participate in the debate or forum;

7 (iii) A news item, feature, commentary, or editorial in a  
8 regularly scheduled news medium that is:

9 (A) Of interest to the public;

10 (B) In a news medium controlled by a person whose business is  
11 that news medium; and

12 (C) Not a medium controlled by a candidate or a political or  
13 incidental committee;

14 (iv) Slate cards and sample ballots;

15 (v) Advertising for books, films, dissertations, or similar works  
16 (A) written by a candidate when the candidate entered into a contract  
17 for such publications or media at least twelve months before becoming  
18 a candidate, or (B) written about a candidate;

19 (vi) Public service announcements;

20 (vii) An internal political communication primarily limited to  
21 the members of or contributors to a political party organization or  
22 political or incidental committee, or to the officers, management  
23 staff, or stockholders of a corporation or similar enterprise, or to  
24 the members of a labor organization or other membership organization;

25 (viii) An expenditure by or contribution to the authorized  
26 committee of a candidate for state, local, or judicial office; or

27 (ix) Any other communication exempted by the commission through  
28 rule consistent with the intent of this chapter.

29 (22) "Expenditure" includes a payment, contribution,  
30 subscription, distribution, loan, advance, deposit, or gift of money  
31 or anything of value, and includes a contract, promise, or agreement,  
32 whether or not legally enforceable, to make an expenditure.  
33 "Expenditure" also includes a promise to pay, a payment, or a  
34 transfer of anything of value in exchange for goods, services,  
35 property, facilities, or anything of value for the purpose of  
36 assisting, benefiting, or honoring any public official or candidate,  
37 or assisting in furthering or opposing any election campaign. For the  
38 purposes of this chapter, agreements to make expenditures, contracts,  
39 and promises to pay may be reported as estimated obligations until  
40 actual payment is made. "Expenditure" shall not include the partial



1 or complete repayment by a candidate or political or incidental  
2 committee of the principal of a loan, the receipt of which loan has  
3 been properly reported.

4 (23) "Final report" means the report described as a final report  
5 in RCW 42.17A.235(11) (a).

6 (24) "Foreign national" means:

7 (a) An individual who is not a citizen of the United States and  
8 is not lawfully admitted for permanent residence;

9 (b) A government, or subdivision, of a foreign country;

10 (c) A foreign political party; and

11 (d) Any entity, such as a partnership, association, corporation,  
12 organization, or other combination of persons, that is organized  
13 under the laws of or has its principal place of business in a foreign  
14 country.

15 (25) "General election" for the purposes of RCW 42.17A.405 means  
16 the election that results in the election of a person to a state or  
17 local office. It does not include a primary.

18 (26) "Gift" has the definition in RCW (~~(42.52.010)~~) 42.52.150.

19 (27) "Immediate family" includes the spouse or domestic partner,  
20 dependent children, and other dependent relatives, if living in the  
21 household. For the purposes of the definition of "intermediary" in  
22 this section, "immediate family" means an individual's spouse or  
23 domestic partner, and child, stepchild, grandchild, parent,  
24 stepparent, grandparent, brother, half brother, sister, or half  
25 sister of the individual and the spouse or the domestic partner of  
26 any such person and a child, stepchild, grandchild, parent,  
27 stepparent, grandparent, brother, half brother, sister, or half  
28 sister of the individual's spouse or domestic partner and the spouse  
29 or the domestic partner of any such person.

30 (28) "Incidental committee" means any nonprofit organization not  
31 otherwise defined as a political committee but that may incidentally  
32 make a contribution or an expenditure in excess of the reporting  
33 thresholds in RCW 42.17A.235, directly or through a political  
34 committee. Any nonprofit organization is not an incidental committee  
35 if it is only remitting payments through the nonprofit organization  
36 in an aggregated form and the nonprofit organization is not required  
37 to report those payments in accordance with this chapter.

38 (29) "Incumbent" means a person who is in present possession of  
39 an elected office.

1 (30) (a) "Independent expenditure" means an expenditure that has  
2 each of the following elements:

3 (i) It is made in support of or in opposition to a candidate for  
4 office by a person who is not:

5 (A) A candidate for that office;

6 (B) An authorized committee of that candidate for that office;  
7 and

8 (C) A person who has received the candidate's encouragement or  
9 approval to make the expenditure, if the expenditure pays in whole or  
10 in part for political advertising supporting that candidate or  
11 promoting the defeat of any other candidate or candidates for that  
12 office;

13 (ii) It is made in support of or in opposition to a candidate for  
14 office by a person with whom the candidate has not collaborated for  
15 the purpose of making the expenditure, if the expenditure pays in  
16 whole or in part for political advertising supporting that candidate  
17 or promoting the defeat of any other candidate or candidates for that  
18 office;

19 (iii) The expenditure pays in whole or in part for political  
20 advertising that either specifically names the candidate supported or  
21 opposed, or clearly and beyond any doubt identifies the candidate  
22 without using the candidate's name; and

23 (iv) The expenditure, alone or in conjunction with another  
24 expenditure or other expenditures of the same person in support of or  
25 opposition to that candidate, has a value of one thousand dollars or  
26 more. A series of expenditures, each of which is under one thousand  
27 dollars, constitutes one independent expenditure if their cumulative  
28 value is one thousand dollars or more.

29 (b) "Independent expenditure" does not include: Ordinary home  
30 hospitality; communications with journalists or editorial staff  
31 designed to elicit a news item, feature, commentary, or editorial in  
32 a regularly scheduled news medium that is of primary interest to the  
33 general public, controlled by a person whose business is that news  
34 medium, and not controlled by a candidate or a political committee;  
35 participation in the creation of a publicly funded voters' pamphlet  
36 statement in written or video form; an internal political  
37 communication primarily limited to contributors to a political party  
38 organization or political action committee, the officers, management  
39 staff, and stockholders of a corporation or similar enterprise, or  
40 the members of a labor organization or other membership organization;

1 or the rendering of personal services of the sort commonly performed  
2 by volunteer campaign workers or incidental expenses personally  
3 incurred by volunteer campaign workers not in excess of two hundred  
4 fifty dollars personally paid for by the worker.

5 (31) (a) "Intermediary" means an individual who transmits a  
6 contribution to a candidate or committee from another person unless  
7 the contribution is from the individual's employer, immediate family,  
8 or an association to which the individual belongs.

9 (b) A treasurer or a candidate is not an intermediary for  
10 purposes of the committee that the treasurer or candidate serves.

11 (c) A professional fund-raiser is not an intermediary if the  
12 fund-raiser is compensated for fund-raising services at the usual and  
13 customary rate.

14 (d) A volunteer hosting a fund-raising event at the individual's  
15 home is not an intermediary for purposes of that event.

16 (32) "Legislation" means bills, resolutions, motions, amendments,  
17 nominations, and other matters pending or proposed in either house of  
18 the state legislature, and includes any other matter that may be the  
19 subject of action by either house or any committee of the legislature  
20 and all bills and resolutions that, having passed both houses, are  
21 pending approval by the governor.

22 (33) "Legislative office" means the office of a member of the  
23 state house of representatives or the office of a member of the state  
24 senate.

25 (34) "Lobby" and "lobbying" each mean attempting to influence the  
26 passage or defeat of any legislation by the legislature of the state  
27 of Washington, or the adoption or rejection of any rule, standard,  
28 rate, or other legislative enactment of any state agency under the  
29 state administrative procedure act, chapter 34.05 RCW. Neither  
30 "lobby" nor "lobbying" includes an association's or other  
31 organization's act of communicating with the members of that  
32 association or organization.

33 (35) "Lobbyist" includes any person who lobbies either on the  
34 person's own or another's behalf.

35 (36) "Lobbyist's employer" means the person or persons by whom a  
36 lobbyist is employed and all persons by whom the lobbyist is  
37 compensated for acting as a lobbyist.

38 (37) "Ministerial functions" means an act or duty carried out as  
39 part of the duties of an administrative office without exercise of  
40 personal judgment or discretion.

1 (38) "Participate" means that, with respect to a particular  
2 election, an entity:

3 (a) Makes either a monetary or in-kind contribution to a  
4 candidate;

5 (b) Makes an independent expenditure or electioneering  
6 communication in support of or opposition to a candidate;

7 (c) Endorses a candidate before contributions are made by a  
8 subsidiary corporation or local unit with respect to that candidate  
9 or that candidate's opponent;

10 (d) Makes a recommendation regarding whether a candidate should  
11 be supported or opposed before a contribution is made by a subsidiary  
12 corporation or local unit with respect to that candidate or that  
13 candidate's opponent; or

14 (e) Directly or indirectly collaborates or consults with a  
15 subsidiary corporation or local unit on matters relating to the  
16 support of or opposition to a candidate, including, but not limited  
17 to, the amount of a contribution, when a contribution should be  
18 given, and what assistance, services or independent expenditures, or  
19 electioneering communications, if any, will be made or should be made  
20 in support of or opposition to a candidate.

21 (39) "Person" includes an individual, partnership, joint venture,  
22 public or private corporation, association, federal, state, or local  
23 governmental entity or agency however constituted, candidate,  
24 committee, political committee, political party, executive committee  
25 thereof, or any other organization or group of persons, however  
26 organized.

27 (40) "Political advertising" includes any advertising displays,  
28 newspaper ads, billboards, signs, brochures, articles, tabloids,  
29 flyers, letters, radio or television presentations, digital  
30 communication, or other means of mass communication, used for the  
31 purpose of appealing, directly or indirectly, for votes or for  
32 financial or other support or opposition in any election campaign.

33 (41) "Political committee" means any person (except a candidate  
34 or an individual dealing with the candidate's or individual's own  
35 funds or property) having the expectation of receiving contributions  
36 or making expenditures in support of, or opposition to, any candidate  
37 or any ballot proposition.

38 (42) "Primary" for the purposes of RCW 42.17A.405 means the  
39 procedure for nominating a candidate to state or local office under

1 chapter 29A.52 RCW or any other primary for an election that uses, in  
2 large measure, the procedures established in chapter 29A.52 RCW.

3 (43) "Public office" means any federal, state, judicial, county,  
4 city, town, school district, port district, special district, or  
5 other state political subdivision elective office.

6 (44) "Public record" has the definition in RCW 42.56.010.

7 (45) "Recall campaign" means the period of time beginning on the  
8 date of the filing of recall charges under RCW 29A.56.120 and ending  
9 thirty days after the recall election.

10 (46) "Remediable violation" means any violation of this chapter  
11 that:

12 (a) Involved expenditures or contributions totaling no more than  
13 the contribution limits set out under RCW 42.17A.405(2) per election,  
14 or one thousand dollars if there is no statutory limit;

15 (b) Occurred:

16 (i) More than thirty days before an election, where the  
17 commission entered into an agreement to resolve the matter; or

18 (ii) At any time where the violation did not constitute a  
19 material violation because it was inadvertent and minor or otherwise  
20 has been cured and, after consideration of all the circumstances,  
21 further proceedings would not serve the purposes of this chapter;

22 (c) Does not materially harm the public interest, beyond the harm  
23 to the policy of this chapter inherent in any violation; and

24 (d) Involved:

25 (i) A person who:

26 (A) Took corrective action within five business days after the  
27 commission first notified the person of noncompliance, or where the  
28 commission did not provide notice and filed a required report within  
29 twenty-one days after the report was due to be filed; and

30 (B) Substantially met the filing deadline for all other required  
31 reports within the immediately preceding twelve-month period; or

32 (ii) A candidate who:

33 (A) Lost the election in question; and

34 (B) Did not receive contributions over one hundred times the  
35 contribution limit in aggregate per election during the campaign in  
36 question.

37 (47) (a) "Sponsor" for purposes of an electioneering  
38 communications, independent expenditures, or political advertising  
39 means the person paying for the electioneering communication,  
40 independent expenditure, or political advertising. If a person acts

1 as an agent for another or is reimbursed by another for the payment,  
2 the original source of the payment is the sponsor.

3 (b) "Sponsor," for purposes of a political or incidental  
4 committee, means any person, except an authorized committee, to whom  
5 any of the following applies:

6 (i) The committee receives eighty percent or more of its  
7 contributions either from the person or from the person's members,  
8 officers, employees, or shareholders;

9 (ii) The person collects contributions for the committee by use  
10 of payroll deductions or dues from its members, officers, or  
11 employees.

12 (48) "Sponsored committee" means a committee, other than an  
13 authorized committee, that has one or more sponsors.

14 (49) "State office" means state legislative office or the office  
15 of governor, lieutenant governor, secretary of state, attorney  
16 general, commissioner of public lands, insurance commissioner,  
17 superintendent of public instruction, state auditor, or state  
18 treasurer.

19 (50) "State official" means a person who holds a state office.

20 (51) "Surplus funds" mean, in the case of a political committee  
21 or candidate, the balance of contributions that remain in the  
22 possession or control of that committee or candidate subsequent to  
23 the election for which the contributions were received, and that are  
24 in excess of the amount necessary to pay remaining debts or expenses  
25 incurred by the committee or candidate with respect to that election.  
26 In the case of a continuing political committee, "surplus funds" mean  
27 those contributions remaining in the possession or control of the  
28 committee that are in excess of the amount necessary to pay all  
29 remaining debts or expenses when it makes its final report under RCW  
30 42.17A.255.

31 (52) "Technical correction" means the correction of a minor or  
32 ministerial error in a required report that does not materially harm  
33 the public interest and needs to be corrected for the report to be in  
34 full compliance with the requirements of this chapter.

35 (53) "Treasurer" and "deputy treasurer" mean the individuals  
36 appointed by a candidate or political or incidental committee,  
37 pursuant to RCW 42.17A.210, to perform the duties specified in that  
38 section.

1 (54) "Violation" means a violation of this chapter that is not a  
2 remediable violation, minor violation, or an error classified by the  
3 commission as appropriate to address by a technical correction.

4 **Sec. 22.** RCW 29B.10.270 and 2024 c 164 s 227 are each amended to  
5 read as follows:

6 "Gift" has the definition in RCW (~~(42.52.010)~~) 42.52.150.

7 **Sec. 23.** RCW 42.17A.615 and 2019 c 428 s 32 are each amended to  
8 read as follows:

9 (1) Any lobbyist registered under RCW 42.17A.600 and any person  
10 who lobbies shall file electronically with the commission monthly  
11 reports of the lobbyist's or person's lobbying activities. The  
12 reports shall be made in the form and manner prescribed by the  
13 commission and must be signed by the lobbyist. The monthly report  
14 shall be filed within fifteen days after the last day of the calendar  
15 month covered by the report.

16 (2) The monthly report shall contain:

17 (a) The totals of all expenditures for lobbying activities made  
18 or incurred by the lobbyist or on behalf of the lobbyist by the  
19 lobbyist's employer during the period covered by the report.  
20 Expenditure totals for lobbying activities shall be segregated  
21 according to financial category, including compensation; food and  
22 refreshments; living accommodations; advertising; travel;  
23 contributions; and other expenses or services. Each individual  
24 expenditure of more than twenty-five dollars for entertainment shall  
25 be identified by date, place, amount, and the names of all persons  
26 taking part in the entertainment, along with the dollar amount  
27 attributable to each person, including the lobbyist's portion.

28 (b) In the case of a lobbyist employed by more than one employer,  
29 the proportionate amount of expenditures in each category incurred on  
30 behalf of each of the lobbyist's employers.

31 (c) An itemized listing of each contribution of money or of  
32 tangible or intangible personal property, whether contributed by the  
33 lobbyist personally or delivered or transmitted by the lobbyist, to  
34 any candidate, elected official, or officer or employee of any  
35 agency, or any political committee supporting or opposing any ballot  
36 proposition, or for or on behalf of any candidate, elected official,  
37 or officer or employee of any agency, or any political committee  
38 supporting or opposing any ballot proposition. All contributions made

1 to, or for the benefit of, any candidate, elected official, or  
2 officer or employee of any agency, or any political committee  
3 supporting or opposing any ballot proposition shall be identified by  
4 date, amount, and the name of the candidate, elected official, or  
5 officer or employee of any agency, or any political committee  
6 supporting or opposing any ballot proposition receiving, or to be  
7 benefited by each such contribution.

8 (d) The subject matter of proposed legislation or other  
9 legislative activity or rule making under chapter 34.05 RCW, the  
10 state administrative procedure act, and the state agency considering  
11 the same, which the lobbyist has been engaged in supporting or  
12 opposing during the reporting period, unless exempt under RCW  
13 42.17A.610(2).

14 (e) A listing of each payment for an item specified in RCW  
15 42.52.150(~~((5))~~) (7) in excess of (~~(fifty dollars)~~) \$100 and each  
16 item specified in RCW (~~(42.52.010(9) (d) and (f))~~) 42.52.150(1)(c)  
17 (iv) and (vi) made to a state elected official, state officer, or  
18 state employee. Each item shall be identified by recipient, date, and  
19 approximate value of the item.

20 (f) The total expenditures paid or incurred during the reporting  
21 period by the lobbyist for lobbying purposes, whether through or on  
22 behalf of a lobbyist or otherwise, for (i) political advertising as  
23 defined in RCW 42.17A.005; and (ii) public relations, telemarketing,  
24 polling, or similar activities if the activities, directly or  
25 indirectly, are intended, designed, or calculated to influence  
26 legislation or the adoption or rejection of a rule, standard, or rate  
27 by an agency under the administrative procedure act. The report shall  
28 specify the amount, the person to whom the amount was paid, and a  
29 brief description of the activity.

30 (3) Lobbyists are not required to report the following:

31 (a) Unreimbursed personal living and travel expenses not incurred  
32 directly for lobbying;

33 (b) Any expenses incurred for the lobbyist's own living  
34 accommodations;

35 (c) Any expenses incurred for the lobbyist's own travel to and  
36 from hearings of the legislature;

37 (d) Any expenses incurred for telephone, and any office expenses,  
38 including rent and salaries and wages paid for staff and secretarial  
39 assistance.



1 (4) The commission may adopt rules to vary the content of  
2 lobbyist reports to address specific circumstances, consistent with  
3 this section. Lobbyist reports are subject to audit by the  
4 commission.

5 **Sec. 24.** RCW 29B.50.050 and 2024 c 164 s 477 are each amended to  
6 read as follows:

7 (1) Any lobbyist registered under RCW 29B.50.010 and any person  
8 who lobbies shall file electronically with the commission monthly  
9 reports of the lobbyist's or person's lobbying activities. The  
10 reports shall be made in the form and manner prescribed by the  
11 commission and must be signed by the lobbyist. The monthly report  
12 shall be filed within 15 days after the last day of the calendar  
13 month covered by the report.

14 (2) The monthly report shall contain:

15 (a) The totals of all expenditures for lobbying activities made  
16 or incurred by the lobbyist or on behalf of the lobbyist by the  
17 lobbyist's employer during the period covered by the report.  
18 Expenditure totals for lobbying activities shall be segregated  
19 according to financial category, including compensation; food and  
20 refreshments; living accommodations; advertising; travel;  
21 contributions; and other expenses or services. Each individual  
22 expenditure of more than twenty-five dollars for entertainment shall  
23 be identified by date, place, amount, and the names of all persons  
24 taking part in the entertainment, along with the dollar amount  
25 attributable to each person, including the lobbyist's portion.

26 (b) In the case of a lobbyist employed by more than one employer,  
27 the proportionate amount of expenditures in each category incurred on  
28 behalf of each of the lobbyist's employers.

29 (c) An itemized listing of each contribution of money or of  
30 tangible or intangible personal property, whether contributed by the  
31 lobbyist personally or delivered or transmitted by the lobbyist, to  
32 any candidate, elected official, or officer or employee of any  
33 agency, or any political committee supporting or opposing any ballot  
34 proposition, or for or on behalf of any candidate, elected official,  
35 or officer or employee of any agency, or any political committee  
36 supporting or opposing any ballot proposition. All contributions made  
37 to, or for the benefit of, any candidate, elected official, or  
38 officer or employee of any agency, or any political committee  
39 supporting or opposing any ballot proposition shall be identified by

1 date, amount, and the name of the candidate, elected official, or  
2 officer or employee of any agency, or any political committee  
3 supporting or opposing any ballot proposition receiving, or to be  
4 benefited by each such contribution.

5 (d) The subject matter of proposed legislation or other  
6 legislative activity or rule making under chapter 34.05 RCW, the  
7 state administrative procedure act, and the state agency considering  
8 the same, which the lobbyist has been engaged in supporting or  
9 opposing during the reporting period, unless exempt under RCW  
10 29B.50.040(2).

11 (e) A listing of each payment for an item specified in RCW  
12 42.52.150(~~(+5)~~) (7) in excess of (~~(fifty dollars)~~) \$100 and each  
13 item specified in RCW (~~(42.52.010(9) (d) and (f))~~) 42.52.150(1)(c)  
14 (iv) and (vi) made to a state elected official, state officer, or  
15 state employee. Each item shall be identified by recipient, date, and  
16 approximate value of the item.

17 (f) The total expenditures paid or incurred during the reporting  
18 period by the lobbyist for lobbying purposes, whether through or on  
19 behalf of a lobbyist or otherwise, for (i) political advertising as  
20 defined in RCW 29B.10.410; and (ii) public relations, telemarketing,  
21 polling, or similar activities if the activities, directly or  
22 indirectly, are intended, designed, or calculated to influence  
23 legislation or the adoption or rejection of a rule, standard, or rate  
24 by an agency under the administrative procedure act. The report shall  
25 specify the amount, the person to whom the amount was paid, and a  
26 brief description of the activity.

27 (3) Lobbyists are not required to report the following:

28 (a) Unreimbursed personal living and travel expenses not incurred  
29 directly for lobbying;

30 (b) Any expenses incurred for the lobbyist's own living  
31 accommodations;

32 (c) Any expenses incurred for the lobbyist's own travel to and  
33 from hearings of the legislature;

34 (d) Any expenses incurred for telephone, and any office expenses,  
35 including rent and salaries and wages paid for staff and secretarial  
36 assistance.

37 (4) The commission may adopt rules to vary the content of  
38 lobbyist reports to address specific circumstances, consistent with  
39 this section. Lobbyist reports are subject to audit by the  
40 commission.

1       **Sec. 25.** RCW 42.17A.620 and 2010 c 204 s 805 are each amended to  
2 read as follows:

3       (1) When a listing or a report of contributions is made to the  
4 commission under RCW 42.17A.615(2)(c), a copy of the listing or  
5 report must be given to the candidate, elected official, professional  
6 (~~staff member~~) employee of the legislature, or officer or employee  
7 of an agency, or a political committee supporting or opposing a  
8 ballot proposition named in the listing or report.

9       (2) If a state elected official or a member of the official's  
10 immediate family is identified by a lobbyist in a lobbyist report as  
11 having received from the lobbyist an item specified in RCW  
12 42.52.150(~~(+5)~~) (7) or (~~(42.52.010(10)(d) or (f))~~) 42.52.150(1)(c)  
13 (iv) or (vi), the lobbyist shall transmit to the official a copy of  
14 the completed form used to identify the item in the report at the  
15 same time the report is filed with the commission.

16       **Sec. 26.** RCW 29B.50.060 and 2024 c 164 s 478 are each amended to  
17 read as follows:

18       (1) When a listing or a report of contributions is made to the  
19 commission under RCW 29B.50.050(2)(c), a copy of the listing or  
20 report must be given to the candidate, elected official, professional  
21 (~~staff member~~) employee of the legislature, or officer or employee  
22 of an agency, or a political committee supporting or opposing a  
23 ballot proposition named in the listing or report.

24       (2) If a state elected official or a member of the official's  
25 immediate family is identified by a lobbyist in a lobbyist report as  
26 having received from the lobbyist an item specified in RCW  
27 42.52.150(~~(+5)~~) (7) or (~~(42.52.010(9)(d) or (f))~~) 42.52.150(1)(c)  
28 (iv) or (vi), the lobbyist shall transmit to the official a copy of  
29 the completed form used to identify the item in the report at the  
30 same time the report is filed with the commission.

31       **Sec. 27.** RCW 42.17A.710 and 2023 c 462 s 502 are each amended to  
32 read as follows:

33       (1) The statement of financial affairs required by RCW 42.17A.700  
34 shall disclose the following information for the reporting individual  
35 and each member of the reporting individual's immediate family:

36       (a) Occupation, name of employer, and business address;

37       (b) Each bank account, savings account, and insurance policy in  
38 which a direct financial interest was held that exceeds twenty

1 thousand dollars at any time during the reporting period; each other  
2 item of intangible personal property in which a direct financial  
3 interest was held that exceeds two thousand dollars during the  
4 reporting period; the name, address, and nature of the entity; and  
5 the nature and highest value of each direct financial interest during  
6 the reporting period;

7 (c) The name and address of each creditor to whom the value of  
8 two thousand dollars or more was owed; the original amount of each  
9 debt to each creditor; the amount of each debt owed to each creditor  
10 as of the date of filing; the terms of repayment of each debt; and  
11 the security given, if any, for each such debt. Debts arising from a  
12 "retail installment transaction" as defined in chapter 63.14 RCW  
13 (retail installment sales act) need not be reported;

14 (d) Every public or private office, directorship, and position  
15 held as trustee; except that an elected official or executive state  
16 officer need not report the elected official's or executive state  
17 officer's service on a governmental board, commission, association,  
18 or functional equivalent, when such service is part of the elected  
19 official's or executive state officer's official duties;

20 (e) All persons for whom any legislation, rule, rate, or standard  
21 has been prepared, promoted, or opposed for current or deferred  
22 compensation. For the purposes of this subsection, "compensation"  
23 does not include payments made to the person reporting by the  
24 governmental entity for which the person serves as an elected  
25 official or state executive officer or professional staff member for  
26 the person's service in office; the description of such actual or  
27 proposed legislation, rules, rates, or standards; and the amount of  
28 current or deferred compensation paid or promised to be paid;

29 (f) The name and address of each governmental entity,  
30 corporation, partnership, joint venture, sole proprietorship,  
31 association, union, or other business or commercial entity from whom  
32 compensation has been received in any form of a total value of two  
33 thousand dollars or more; the value of the compensation; and the  
34 consideration given or performed in exchange for the compensation;

35 (g) The name of any corporation, partnership, joint venture,  
36 association, union, or other entity in which is held any office,  
37 directorship, or any general partnership interest, or an ownership  
38 interest of ten percent or more; the name or title of that office,  
39 directorship, or partnership; the nature of ownership interest; and:

40 (i) With respect to a governmental unit in which the official seeks

1 or holds any office or position, if the entity has received  
2 compensation in any form during the preceding twelve months from the  
3 governmental unit, the value of the compensation and the  
4 consideration given or performed in exchange for the compensation;  
5 and (ii) the name of each governmental unit, corporation,  
6 partnership, joint venture, sole proprietorship, association, union,  
7 or other business or commercial entity from which the entity has  
8 received compensation in any form in the amount of ten thousand  
9 dollars or more during the preceding twelve months and the  
10 consideration given or performed in exchange for the compensation. As  
11 used in (g) (ii) of this subsection, "compensation" does not include  
12 payment for water and other utility services at rates approved by the  
13 Washington state utilities and transportation commission or the  
14 legislative authority of the public entity providing the service.  
15 With respect to any bank or commercial lending institution in which  
16 is held any office, directorship, partnership interest, or ownership  
17 interest, it shall only be necessary to report either the name,  
18 address, and occupation of every director and officer of the bank or  
19 commercial lending institution and the average monthly balance of  
20 each account held during the preceding twelve months by the bank or  
21 commercial lending institution from the governmental entity for which  
22 the individual is an official or candidate or professional staff  
23 member, or all interest paid by a borrower on loans from and all  
24 interest paid to a depositor by the bank or commercial lending  
25 institution if the interest exceeds two thousand four hundred  
26 dollars;

27 (h) A list, including legal or other sufficient descriptions as  
28 prescribed by the commission, of all real property in the state of  
29 Washington, the assessed valuation of which exceeds ten thousand  
30 dollars in which any direct financial interest was acquired during  
31 the preceding calendar year, and a statement of the amount and nature  
32 of the financial interest and of the consideration given in exchange  
33 for that interest;

34 (i) A list, including legal or other sufficient descriptions as  
35 prescribed by the commission, of all real property in the state of  
36 Washington, the assessed valuation of which exceeds ten thousand  
37 dollars in which any direct financial interest was divested during  
38 the preceding calendar year, and a statement of the amount and nature  
39 of the consideration received in exchange for that interest, and the  
40 name and address of the person furnishing the consideration;

1 (j) A list, including legal or other sufficient descriptions as  
2 prescribed by the commission, of all real property in the state of  
3 Washington, the assessed valuation of which exceeds ten thousand  
4 dollars in which a direct financial interest was held. If a  
5 description of the property has been included in a report previously  
6 filed, the property may be listed, for purposes of this subsection  
7 (1)(j), by reference to the previously filed report;

8 (k) A list, including legal or other sufficient descriptions as  
9 prescribed by the commission, of all real property in the state of  
10 Washington, the assessed valuation of which exceeds twenty thousand  
11 dollars, in which a corporation, partnership, firm, enterprise, or  
12 other entity had a direct financial interest, in which corporation,  
13 partnership, firm, or enterprise a ten percent or greater ownership  
14 interest was held;

15 (l) A list of each occasion, specifying date, donor, and amount,  
16 at which food and beverage in excess of (~~(fifty dollars)~~) \$100 was  
17 accepted under RCW 42.52.150(~~((5))~~) (7);

18 (m) A list of each occasion, specifying date, donor, and amount,  
19 at which items specified in RCW (~~(42.52.010(9) (d) and (f))~~)  
20 42.52.150(1)(c) (iv) and (vi) were accepted; and

21 (n) Such other information as the commission may deem necessary  
22 in order to properly carry out the purposes and policies of this  
23 chapter, as the commission shall prescribe by rule.

24 (2)(a) When judges, prosecutors, sheriffs, participants in the  
25 address confidentiality program under RCW 40.24.030, or their  
26 immediate family members are required to disclose real property that  
27 is the personal residence of the judge, prosecutor, sheriff, or  
28 address confidentiality program participant, the requirements of  
29 subsection (1)(h) through (k) of this section may be satisfied for  
30 that property by substituting:

31 (i) The city or town;

32 (ii) The type of residence, such as a single-family or  
33 multifamily residence, and the nature of ownership; and

34 (iii) Such other identifying information the commission  
35 prescribes by rule for the mailing address where the property is  
36 located.

37 (b) Nothing in this subsection relieves the judge, prosecutor, or  
38 sheriff of any other applicable obligations to disclose potential  
39 conflicts or to recuse oneself.

1 (3) (a) Where an amount is required to be reported under  
2 subsection (1) (a) through (m) of this section, it may be reported  
3 within a range as provided in (b) of this subsection.

4 (b)

5 Code A	Less than thirty thousand dollars;
6 Code B	At least thirty thousand dollars, but less 7 than sixty thousand dollars;
8 Code C	At least sixty thousand dollars, but less 9 than one hundred thousand dollars;
10 Code D	At least one hundred thousand dollars, but 11 less than two hundred thousand dollars;
12 Code E	At least two hundred thousand dollars, but 13 less than five hundred thousand dollars;
14 Code F	At least five hundred thousand dollars, but 15 less than seven hundred and fifty 16 thousand dollars;
17 Code G	At least seven hundred fifty thousand 18 dollars, but less than one million dollars; 19 or
20 Code H	One million dollars or more.

21 (c) An amount of stock may be reported by number of shares  
22 instead of by market value. No provision of this subsection may be  
23 interpreted to prevent any person from filing more information or  
24 more detailed information than required.

25 (4) Items of value given to an official's or employee's spouse,  
26 domestic partner, or family member are attributable to the official  
27 or employee, except the item is not attributable if an independent  
28 business, family, or social relationship exists between the donor and  
29 the spouse, domestic partner, or family member.

30 **Sec. 28.** RCW 29B.55.030 and 2024 c 164 s 488 are each amended to  
31 read as follows:

32 (1) The statement of financial affairs required by RCW 29B.55.010  
33 shall disclose the following information for the reporting individual  
34 and each member of the reporting individual's immediate family:

35 (a) Occupation, name of employer, and business address;

1 (b) Each bank account, savings account, and insurance policy in  
2 which a direct financial interest was held that exceeds twenty  
3 thousand dollars at any time during the reporting period; each other  
4 item of intangible personal property in which a direct financial  
5 interest was held that exceeds two thousand dollars during the  
6 reporting period; the name, address, and nature of the entity; and  
7 the nature and highest value of each direct financial interest during  
8 the reporting period;

9 (c) The name and address of each creditor to whom the value of  
10 two thousand dollars or more was owed; the original amount of each  
11 debt to each creditor; the amount of each debt owed to each creditor  
12 as of the date of filing; the terms of repayment of each debt; and  
13 the security given, if any, for each such debt. Debts arising from a  
14 "retail installment transaction" as defined in chapter 63.14 RCW  
15 (retail installment sales act) need not be reported;

16 (d) Every public or private office, directorship, and position  
17 held as trustee; except that an elected official or executive state  
18 officer need not report the elected official's or executive state  
19 officer's service on a governmental board, commission, association,  
20 or functional equivalent, when such service is part of the elected  
21 official's or executive state officer's official duties;

22 (e) All persons for whom any legislation, rule, rate, or standard  
23 has been prepared, promoted, or opposed for current or deferred  
24 compensation. For the purposes of this subsection, "compensation"  
25 does not include payments made to the person reporting by the  
26 governmental entity for which the person serves as an elected  
27 official or state executive officer or professional staff member for  
28 the person's service in office; the description of such actual or  
29 proposed legislation, rules, rates, or standards; and the amount of  
30 current or deferred compensation paid or promised to be paid;

31 (f) The name and address of each governmental entity,  
32 corporation, partnership, joint venture, sole proprietorship,  
33 association, union, or other business or commercial entity from whom  
34 compensation has been received in any form of a total value of two  
35 thousand dollars or more; the value of the compensation; and the  
36 consideration given or performed in exchange for the compensation;

37 (g) The name of any corporation, partnership, joint venture,  
38 association, union, or other entity in which is held any office,  
39 directorship, or any general partnership interest, or an ownership  
40 interest of ten percent or more; the name or title of that office,



1 directorship, or partnership; the nature of ownership interest; and:  
2 (i) With respect to a governmental unit in which the official seeks  
3 or holds any office or position, if the entity has received  
4 compensation in any form during the preceding twelve months from the  
5 governmental unit, the value of the compensation and the  
6 consideration given or performed in exchange for the compensation;  
7 and (ii) the name of each governmental unit, corporation,  
8 partnership, joint venture, sole proprietorship, association, union,  
9 or other business or commercial entity from which the entity has  
10 received compensation in any form in the amount of ten thousand  
11 dollars or more during the preceding twelve months and the  
12 consideration given or performed in exchange for the compensation. As  
13 used in (g) (ii) of this subsection, "compensation" does not include  
14 payment for water and other utility services at rates approved by the  
15 Washington state utilities and transportation commission or the  
16 legislative authority of the public entity providing the service.  
17 With respect to any bank or commercial lending institution in which  
18 is held any office, directorship, partnership interest, or ownership  
19 interest, it shall only be necessary to report either the name,  
20 address, and occupation of every director and officer of the bank or  
21 commercial lending institution and the average monthly balance of  
22 each account held during the preceding twelve months by the bank or  
23 commercial lending institution from the governmental entity for which  
24 the individual is an official or candidate or professional staff  
25 member, or all interest paid by a borrower on loans from and all  
26 interest paid to a depositor by the bank or commercial lending  
27 institution if the interest exceeds two thousand four hundred  
28 dollars;

29 (h) A list, including legal or other sufficient descriptions as  
30 prescribed by the commission, of all real property in the state of  
31 Washington, the assessed valuation of which exceeds ten thousand  
32 dollars in which any direct financial interest was acquired during  
33 the preceding calendar year, and a statement of the amount and nature  
34 of the financial interest and of the consideration given in exchange  
35 for that interest;

36 (i) A list, including legal or other sufficient descriptions as  
37 prescribed by the commission, of all real property in the state of  
38 Washington, the assessed valuation of which exceeds ten thousand  
39 dollars in which any direct financial interest was divested during  
40 the preceding calendar year, and a statement of the amount and nature

1 of the consideration received in exchange for that interest, and the  
2 name and address of the person furnishing the consideration;

3 (j) A list, including legal or other sufficient descriptions as  
4 prescribed by the commission, of all real property in the state of  
5 Washington, the assessed valuation of which exceeds ten thousand  
6 dollars in which a direct financial interest was held. If a  
7 description of the property has been included in a report previously  
8 filed, the property may be listed, for purposes of this subsection  
9 (1)(j), by reference to the previously filed report;

10 (k) A list, including legal or other sufficient descriptions as  
11 prescribed by the commission, of all real property in the state of  
12 Washington, the assessed valuation of which exceeds twenty thousand  
13 dollars, in which a corporation, partnership, firm, enterprise, or  
14 other entity had a direct financial interest, in which corporation,  
15 partnership, firm, or enterprise a ten percent or greater ownership  
16 interest was held;

17 (l) A list of each occasion, specifying date, donor, and amount,  
18 at which food and beverage in excess of (~~fifty dollars~~) \$100 was  
19 accepted under RCW 42.52.150(~~(+5+)~~) (7);

20 (m) A list of each occasion, specifying date, donor, and amount,  
21 at which items specified in RCW (~~(42.52.010(9) — (d) — and — (f))~~)  
22 42.52.150(1)(c) (iv) and (vi) were accepted; and

23 (n) Such other information as the commission may deem necessary  
24 in order to properly carry out the purposes and policies of this  
25 title, as the commission shall prescribe by rule.

26 (2)(a) When judges, prosecutors, sheriffs, participants in the  
27 address confidentiality program under RCW 40.24.030, or their  
28 immediate family members are required to disclose real property that  
29 is the personal residence of the judge, prosecutor, sheriff, or  
30 address confidentiality program participant, the requirements of  
31 subsection (1)(h) through (k) of this section may be satisfied for  
32 that property by substituting:

33 (i) The city or town;

34 (ii) The type of residence, such as a single-family or  
35 multifamily residence, and the nature of ownership; and

36 (iii) Such other identifying information the commission  
37 prescribes by rule for the mailing address where the property is  
38 located.

1 (b) Nothing in this subsection relieves the judge, prosecutor, or  
2 sheriff of any other applicable obligations to disclose potential  
3 conflicts or to recuse oneself.

4 (3) (a) Where an amount is required to be reported under  
5 subsection (1) (a) through (m) of this section, it may be reported  
6 within a range as provided in (b) of this subsection.

7 (b)

8 Code A	Less than thirty thousand dollars;
9 Code B	At least thirty thousand dollars, but less 10 than sixty thousand dollars;
11 Code C	At least sixty thousand dollars, but less 12 than one hundred thousand dollars;
13 Code D	At least one hundred thousand dollars, but 14 less than two hundred thousand dollars;
15 Code E	At least two hundred thousand dollars, but 16 less than five hundred thousand dollars;
17 Code F	At least five hundred thousand dollars, but 18 less than seven hundred and fifty 19 thousand dollars;
20 Code G	At least seven hundred fifty thousand 21 dollars, but less than one million dollars; 22 or
23 Code H	One million dollars or more.

24 (c) An amount of stock may be reported by number of shares  
25 instead of by market value. No provision of this subsection may be  
26 interpreted to prevent any person from filing more information or  
27 more detailed information than required.

28 (4) Items of value given to an official's or employee's spouse,  
29 domestic partner, or family member are attributable to the official  
30 or employee, except the item is not attributable if an independent  
31 business, family, or social relationship exists between the donor and  
32 the spouse, domestic partner, or family member.

33 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 29.** A new section is added to chapter 42.52  
34 RCW to read as follows:

35 Members and employees of either the legislative ethics board or  
36 the executive ethics board, including any lawyers or special masters

1 temporarily employed by either board, are immune from suit in any  
2 action, civil or criminal, based upon any complaint investigations or  
3 other official acts performed in the course of their duties.  
4 Statements made to either board or its investigators or other  
5 employees are absolutely privileged in actions for defamation. This  
6 absolute privilege does not apply to statements made in any other  
7 forum.

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 30.** The following acts or parts of acts are  
9 each repealed:

- 10 (1) RCW 42.52.140 (Gifts) and 1994 c 154 s 114;
- 11 (2) RCW 42.52.340 (Transfer of jurisdiction) and 1994 c 154 s  
12 204; and
- 13 (3) RCW 42.52.801 (Exemption—Solicitation to promote tourism) and  
14 2003 c 153 s 5.

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 31.** Sections 1, 9, 13, 21, 23, 25, and 27 of  
16 this act expire January 1, 2026.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 32.** Sections 2, 10, 14, 22, 24, 26, and 28 of  
18 this act take effect January 1, 2026.

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