Title 358 WAC
PERSONNEL APPEALS BOARD

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Chapter 358-01 WAC
GENERAL PROVISIONS

WAC 358-01-010 Declaration of purpose. The purpose of the personnel appeals board is to provide a system of adjudication of appeals for eligible state employees.

WAC 358-01-020 Personnel appeals board—Composition—Appointment. (1) The personnel appeals board shall consist of three members appointed by the governor and confirmed by the senate. Each member must be qualified by experience and training in the field of administrative procedures and merit principles.

WAC 358-01-030 Personnel appeals board—Powers—Duties. It shall be the responsibility of the personnel appeals board to:

WAC 358-01-040 Personnel appeals board—Procedure—Quorum. (1) The principal office of the board shall be at the state capitol but it may sit or hold hearings at any other place in the state.

WAC 358-01-050 Executive secretary—Appointment—Removal. (1) An executive secretary, who shall be exempt from the provisions of chapter 41.06 RCW, may be appointed and discharged by the board.

WAC 358-01-060 Executive secretary—Powers—Duties. (1) The executive secretary shall direct and supervise all administrative activities in accordance with the provisions of chapter 41.64 RCW and the rules and regulations approved and promulgated by the personnel appeals board.

(1995 Ed.)
Appeals—Filings—Declaratory Rulings

WAC 358-20-010 Appeal from dismissal, demotion, suspension, reduction, dismissal for abandonment or disability separation. Any permanent employee who is dismissed, demoted, suspended, reduced, dismissed for abandonment or given a disability separation may appeal to the personnel appeals board.

WAC 358-20-020 Appeal from violation of law or rules. An employee who is adversely affected by a violation of the state civil service law (chapter 41.06 RCW) or of the merit system rules (Title 356 WAC) may appeal to the personnel appeals board.

WAC 358-20-030 Appeal of allocation or reallocation. An employee incumbent in a position at the time of its allocation or reallocation or the agency utilizing the position may appeal the determination of the director of personnel or designee issued pursuant to WAC 356-10-060(5).

WAC 358-20-040 Filing appeals. (1) An appeal must be received in writing at the principal office of the personnel appeals board within 30 days after: (a) The effective date of the disciplinary or dismissal for abandonment action (WAC 358-20-010); (b) notification of disability separation (WAC 358-20-010); (c) notification of the allocation determination of the director of personnel or director’s designee made pursuant to WAC 356-10-060(5) (WAC 358-20-030); or (d) the employee could reasonably be expected to have knowledge of the action giving rise to a law or rule violation claim under WAC 358-20-020 or the stated effective date of the action, whichever is later.

(2) The appeal shall include the name and address of the appellant, the name of the employing agency, a telephone number at which the appellant can be reached. Appellants who are represented shall include the name, address and telephone number of their representative.

(3) An appeal of a violation of the state civil service law or the merit system rules must cite the law(s) or rule(s) which the appellant claims has been violated, the particular circumstances of the alleged violation, how the employee is adversely affected by the alleged violation, and the remedy requested.

(4) Forms which may be used in filing appeals shall be available from the executive secretary of the board. The forms shall contain appropriate spaces for the information required by subsections (2) and (3) of this rule. Appellants may prepare and use their own appeal documents. However, such documents must contain all of the information required by subsections (2) and (3) of this rule.

(5) Upon receipt of an appeal, the executive secretary may review the document(s) filed to determine whether the information required by subsections (2) and (3) of this rule has been provided. If any of the required information is not contained on the appeal documents, the executive secretary shall direct the appellant, with notification to all affected parties, to file such documents or to provide the information required.
WAC 358-20-050 Declaratory rulings. (1) As prescribed by RCW 34.04.080, any interested party may petition the personnel appeals board for a declaratory ruling with respect to the applicability to any person, property or state of facts of any statute or rule enforceable by the personnel appeals board. The petition must be filed in the principal office of the personnel appeals board.

(2) Upon receipt of a petition for declaratory ruling, the executive secretary or his/her designee will acknowledge receipt of the petition and send a copy to the other parties.

(3) The personnel appeals board shall consider the petition without argument and within a reasonable time will:

(a) Notify the petitioner that no declaratory ruling will be issued;

(b) Based on the information in the petition, issue a nonbinding declaratory ruling; or

(c) Notify the parties of the time for submitting written argument or of a time and place for hearing oral argument. If a hearing is scheduled, the notice will inform the parties whether a decision, when rendered, will be binding between the agency and the petitioner.

(4) After considering argument, the personnel appeals board will:

(a) If written argument was submitted, notify the parties within a reasonable time that no declaratory ruling will be issued or issue a nonbinding ruling.

(b) If a hearing is held, notify the parties within a reasonable time that no declaratory ruling will be issued; issue a nonbinding ruling; or if the notice so provided, issue a binding ruling.

(5) A declaratory ruling, if issued after argument and stated to be binding, is binding between the agency and the petitioner on the state of facts alleged, unless it is altered or set aside by a court. Such a ruling is subject to review in the superior court of Thurston County in the manner provided in the Administrative Procedure Act (chapter 34.04 RCW) for the review of decisions in contested cases.

[Statutory Authority: Chapter 41.64 RCW. 82-01-050, filed 12/16/81.]

WAC 358-30-010 Acknowledgment of appeal, setting of hearing. (1) Upon receipt of an appeal, the executive secretary of the personnel appeals board or designee will acknowledge receipt of the appeal and send a copy to the other affected parties.

(2) A hearing before the personnel appeals board or hearings examiner shall be arranged after consultation with the parties for a time mutually convenient but never less than 15 days notice of such hearing, unless all parties agree to waive such notice.

[Statutory Authority: Chapter 41.64 RCW. 82-01-053 (Order 81-4), § 358-30-010, filed 12/16/81.]

WAC 358-30-015 Motion for more definite statement. (1) When an appeal is filed pursuant to WAC 358-20-020, the respondent may move for an order requiring the appellant to provide any information required by subsections (2) and (3) of WAC 358-20-040 which does not appear in the appeal documents and/or to make the allegations sufficiently clear to enable the respondent to prepare its defense. Any such motion must be made within fifteen calendar days of the mailing of the acknowledgment required in WAC 358-30-010, or, if the executive secretary requires more information pursuant to WAC 358-20-040(5), within fifteen calendar days after the appellant’s response is filed. The board will examine the motion and the appeal, and, if it finds merit in the motion, shall issue such order as it deems necessary to obtain compliance with WAC 358-20-040.

(2) If the motion is granted, the appellant shall provide the information required within fifteen calendar days of the date of the order. Failure to provide the required information in a timely manner may result in dismissal of the appeal for failure to state grounds for an appeal.

(3) If a respondent does not move for an order to correct deficiencies within the prescribed time, any objection
on its part to the sufficiency of the appeal shall be deemed waived.

[Statutory Authority: Chapter 41.64 RCW. 87-20-035 (Order 87-1), § 358-30-015, filed 9/30/87.]

WAC 358-30-020 Hearings examiners. The personnel appeals board may appoint one or more hearings examiners to preside over hearings and make recommendations in accordance with rules established by the personnel appeals board in all cases of employee appeals to the board. Hearings examiners shall be retained with a personal service contract and compensated for each hearing in accordance with the provisions of chapter 43.88 RCW and rules adopted pursuant thereto. Hearings examiners shall conduct hearings in the same manner and shall have the same authority as the personnel appeals board when conducting hearings.

[Statutory Authority: Chapter 41.64 RCW. 82-01-053 (Order 81-4), § 358-30-020, filed 12/16/81.]

WAC 358-30-030 Hearings. (1) Hearings on all appeals shall be open to the public unless the personnel appeals board or hearings examiner determines there is substantial reason for not having an open hearing, or the employee so requests.

(2) The hearing shall be informal. Technical rules of evidence shall not apply to the proceedings, except for the rules of privilege recognized by law.

(3) All parties may select representatives of their choosing, present and cross-examine witnesses, and give evidence before the personnel appeals board or hearings examiner.

(4) All testimony shall be on oath administered by a member of the personnel appeals board or hearings examiner.

(5) One member of the personnel appeals board may hold a hearing and take testimony to be reported for action by the board. Any such hearing shall be done only at the direction of the chairperson of the board or as provided in these rules.

(6) The personnel appeals board or hearings examiner shall prepare an official record of the hearing, including all testimony recorded manually or by mechanical device, and exhibits.

(7) The personnel appeals board or hearings examiner shall not be required to transcribe such record unless requested by the parties. A transcript can be obtained:

(a) If the proceedings before the hearings examiner or board were recorded by a court reporter, a transcript can be ordered from the court reporter.

(b) If the proceedings were recorded mechanically, a copy of transcript can be ordered from the board for $2.50 a page. Copies of cassettes may be obtained for $5.00 for the first tape and $3.00 for each additional tape.

[Statutory Authority: Chapter 41.64 RCW. 85-20-001 (Order 85-2), § 358-30-030, filed 9/19/85; 82-01-053 (Order 81-4), § 358-30-030, filed 12/16/81.]

WAC 358-30-040 Motions for and orders of continuance. Any party to a hearing may make a motion to continue the hearing for good cause shown. Any such motion shall be in writing directed to the person or persons who will be conducting the hearing. The motion shall state the specific reasons a continuance is necessary and shall be filed with the executive secretary and served on the hearings examiner, if any, and the opposing party at least five days prior to the scheduled hearing date. In unusual circumstances and only where the reason for the continuance could not reasonably have been foreseen, the motion may be made when the party becomes aware of the reason.

[Statutory Authority: Chapter 41.64 RCW. 82-01-053 (Order 81-4), § 358-30-040, filed 12/16/81.]

WAC 358-30-050 Disposition following hearing. (1) At the conclusion of a hearing, a hearings examiner or the personnel appeals board may require post-hearing briefs.

(2) A hearings examiner may affirm, reverse or modify an action of an agency.

(3) The personnel appeals board may affirm, reverse or modify the action of an agency or the recommended decision of a hearings examiner or remand the matter for further proceedings before the hearings examiner.

(4) When a hearings examiner or the personnel appeals board reduces a dismissal to a suspension, the period of suspension is not limited by RCW 41.06.170(1).

[Statutory Authority: Chapter 41.64 RCW. 82-01-053 (Order 81-4), § 358-30-050, filed 12/16/81.]

WAC 358-30-060 Summary motions. (1) The personnel appeals board, or a hearings examiner, may decide all, or any part, of an appeal by motion, after a hearing and notice to all parties, if the documents on file, depositions and affidavits, if any, show there is no genuine issue as to any material fact and the appeal should be decided or dismissed as a matter of law.

(2) Summary motions may be made at any time by any party.

(3) If motions are made prior to the hearing date, or if no hearing date has been assigned, the motion may be heard by the board as provided in WAC 358-30-030, or by the hearings examiner. Any such motion shall be in writing which sets forth the basis for the motion and shall be filed with the executive secretary of the personnel appeals board and served on all parties. After receipt of the motion, the parties will be notified by the executive secretary or hearings examiner, at least ten days in advance, of the time and place of the hearing on the motion.

(4) Any affidavits to be filed in support of a motion shall be served with the motion. Opposing affidavits shall be served at least three days prior to the hearing. Counter affidavits by the moving party shall be served at least one day prior to the hearing.

(5) When an appeal is dismissed or decided on motion, an order, or recommended order shall be issued as in other cases of appeal to the personnel appeals board.

[Statutory Authority: Chapter 41.64 RCW. 82-01-053 (Order 81-4), § 358-30-060, filed 12/16/81.]

WAC 358-30-070 Recommended decisions of hearings examiners—Exceptions. (1) A hearings examiner shall serve his/her recommended decision, including findings of act, conclusions of law, and order, upon the personnel appeals board and upon each party and representative as
soon as possible after conclusion of the hearing. Service to the employing agency and to the employee or the employee’s designated representative shall be made by certified mail, a return receipt requested.

(2) Within 30 days after service of the recommended decision, any party adversely affected thereby may take exception to the personnel appeals board by filing a written notice of exceptions at the principal office of the personnel appeals board. The notice shall set forth specific exceptions to the recommended decision including each finding of fact and conclusion of law to which exception is taken and any additional errors the parties contend were made by the hearings examiner.

(3) If no exceptions are filed, the recommended decision shall become final within 40 days after service thereof, unless the personnel appeals board notifies each party within that 40-day period that a hearing will be scheduled to consider the recommended decision.

[Statutory Authority: Chapter 41.64 RCW. 82-01-053 (Order 81-4), § 358-30-070, filed 12/16/81.]

WAC 358-30-080 Hearing on exceptions—Orders of board. (1) The hearing by the personnel appeals board on exceptions from a recommended decision of a hearings examiner shall be limited to the contentions set forth in the notice of exceptions.

(2) The personnel appeals board will issue its decision within 30 days after the conclusion of the hearing.

(3) When the construction of a rule, regulation or statute is in question the board will issue findings of fact, conclusions of law and its order.

(4) The decision and order of the personnel appeals board shall be final in cases filed pursuant to RCW 41.06.170(3). In cases filed pursuant to RCW 41.06.170(2) the order and decision of the personnel appeals board shall be final subject to action by the court on appeal.

[Statutory Authority: Chapter 41.64 RCW. 82-01-053 (Order 81-4), § 358-30-080, filed 12/16/81.]

WAC 358-30-090 Exhibits at hearings. At any hearing before the personnel appeals board or hearings examiner when exhibits are offered, copies shall be furnished to the opposing party, to each board member or hearings examiner and for the official file. The parties should interchange copies of exhibits before or at the commencement of the hearing.

[Statutory Authority: Chapter 41.64 RCW. 82-01-053 (Order 81-4), § 358-30-090, filed 12/16/81.]

WAC 358-30-100 Ethical conduct. All persons appearing in appeal proceedings before the personnel appeals board or hearings examiner in a representative capacity shall conduct themselves in a manner compatible with generally accepted practices in the courts of the state of Washington.

[Statutory Authority: Chapter 41.64 RCW. 82-01-053 (Order 81-4), § 358-30-100, filed 12/16/81.]

WAC 358-30-110 Filing papers with the personnel appeals board. Papers which must be filed with the personnel appeals board shall not be deemed filed until actual receipt of the papers in the principal office of the personnel appeals board in Olympia, Washington. The executive secretary or designee shall issue a receipt and an acknowledgment stating the date filed.

[Statutory Authority: Chapter 41.64 RCW. 82-01-053 (Order 81-4), § 358-30-110, filed 12/16/81.]

WAC 358-30-120 Subpoenas. (1) Any member of the personnel appeals board, the executive secretary or the hearings examiner may, and shall at the request of either party, issue subpoenas, including subpoenas duces tecum. The personnel appeals board or the hearings examiner assigned to the appeal shall certify to the superior court the facts of any refusals to obey a subpoena, take the oath, or testify. The court shall summarily hear the evidence on such refusal and, if the evidence warrants, punish such refusal in the same manner and to the same extent as for contempt committed before or in connection with the proceedings of the court.

(2) Every subpoena shall name the personnel appeals board, the title and case number of the proceedings and shall command the person to whom it is directed to appear at a specified time and place and give testimony or produce designated books, documents, or things under that person’s control.

(3) Any representative or party not represented shall prepare subpoenas for issuance, and may present them to a personnel appeals board member, the executive secretary or the hearings examiner for signature, and upon return shall make arrangements for service. The service of all subpoenas shall be at the expense of the party requiring the witness to appear. It is recommended that all subpoenas be submitted at least five days prior to the hearing.

(4) Subpoenas shall be personally served upon the designated individual who upon demand, where entitled to make such demand, shall be tendered the fees for one day’s attendance and the mileage allowed by law. A copy of the subpoena will also be provided to the opposing representative or pro se party, agency personnel officer and union representative.

(5) Attorneys of record may issue subpoenas, including subpoenas duces tecum, in the same manner and form as members of the personnel appeals board, the executive secretary or the hearings examiner. Any attorney so issuing a subpoena shall report a refusal to obey a subpoena, take the oath, or testify to the personnel appeals board, the executive secretary or the hearings examiner who shall then issue a subpoena in accordance with subsections 1 through 4 of this rule.

[Statutory Authority: Chapter 41.64 RCW. 82-01-053 (Order 81-4), § 358-30-120, filed 12/16/81.]

WAC 358-30-130 Witness fees. Witnesses summoned before the personnel appeals board who upon demand, where entitled to make such demand, shall be paid by the party at whose behalf they appear the same fees and mileage that are paid to witnesses in the superior court of the county in which the hearing is being held. State employees who remain in pay status shall be compensated for travel only.

(1995 Ed.)
WAC 358-30-140 Proof of subpoena service. The person serving the subpoena shall prove service by filing an acknowledgement or affidavit of service with the personnel appeals board or the hearings examiner at any time prior to adjournment of the hearing. Failure to prove service does not affect the validity of the service.

WAC 358-30-150 Discovery. (1) Attorneys of record may use discovery procedures in a manner consistent with the civil rules for the superior courts of the state of Washington.

(2) A party appearing pro se or not represented by counsel may obtain an order of discovery from the personnel appeals board or the hearings examiner and may use discovery procedures in a manner consistent with the civil rules of the superior courts of the state of Washington.

WAC 358-30-160 Quashing. Upon motion promptly made by a party to the appeal or by the person to whom the subpoena or discovery is directed and upon notice to the party who issued the subpoena or discovery, the personnel appeals board or hearings examiner may after a hearing:

(1) Deny the motion;

(2) Grant the motion if the subpoena or discovery is unreasonable or requires evidence not relevant to any matter in issue; or

(3) Deny the motion with modification of the subpoena or discovery for just and reasonable cause.

WAC 358-30-170 Burden of proof. At any hearing on appeal from a dismissal, suspension, demotion, reduction, dismissal for abandonment or disability separation the appointing authority shall have the burden of supporting the charges upon which the action was initiated. At any other hearing, the party filing the action shall have the burden of proof.

WAC 358-30-180 Restoration of rights and benefits. Any employee, when fully reinstated after appeal, shall be guaranteed all employee rights and benefits, including back pay, sick leave, vacation accrual, retirement and OASDI credits as provided for in RCW 41.06.220.

WAC 358-30-190 Service. (1) All notices, documents and other papers required under the personnel appeals board rules to be filed or served, shall be filed with the board and served upon each of the parties and the hearings examiner to whom the appeal is assigned, if any, all within the time stated. Service shall be made personally, or, except as provided in WAC 358-30-070(1), by first class mail.

(2) Service upon parties shall be regarded as complete when personal service has been accomplished; or by mail three days after deposit in the United States mail properly stamped and addressed.

WAC 358-30-200 Computation of time. The day of the act, event or default after which the designated period of time begins to run is not to be included in computing any period of time prescribed or allowed by the personnel appeals board rules. The last day of the period so computed is to be included unless it is a Saturday, Sunday or a legal holiday, in which event the period runs until the end of the next day which is neither a Saturday, Sunday nor a holiday. When the period of time prescribed or allowed is less than seven days, intermediate Saturdays, Sundays and holidays shall be excluded in the computation.

WAC 358-30-210 Appeals to superior court. Within 30 calendar days after the recording and mailing of a personnel appeals board order in appeal cases provided for in RCW 41.06.170(2), the employee may appeal to the Thurston County superior court as provided in RCW 41.64.130. The grounds for the appeal shall be stated in a written notice of appeal filed with the court, with copies thereof served on a member of the board or the executive secretary and on the employing agency, all within the appeal period.

WAC 358-30-220 Record for the court—Transcripts on appeal. (1) By stipulation the parties may agree to shorten the record to be filed with the court. The appellant shall contact counsel for the respondent to discuss stipulating to a shortened record. Either party unreasonably refusing to stipulate to such a limitation may be ordered by the court to pay the additional costs involved.

(2) Within 10 days after filing the notice of appeal, the appellant will notify the board in writing of the portion of the record to be filed.

(3) The transcript certified to the court will be paid for by the board.

(4) The parties may obtain a copy of a transcript to be used on appeal:

(a) If the proceedings before the hearings examiner or board were recorded by a court reporter, a copy of the transcript can be ordered from the court reporter.

(b) If the proceedings were recorded mechanically, a copy can be ordered from the board for 35 cents a page.

(4) The board shall transmit to the court a certified transcript of the hearing with exhibits.
Chapter 358-40 WAC
PUBLIC DISCLOSURE

WAC 358-40-010 Purpose. The purpose of this chapter shall be to ensure compliance by the personnel appeals board with the provisions of chapter 42.17 RCW, Disclosure—Campaign finances—Lobbying—Records; and in particular with sections 25 through 32 of that chapter, dealing with public records.

WAC 358-40-020 Location of agency. (1) The administrative offices of the personnel appeals board and its staff are located at 2828 Capitol Boulevard, Olympia, Washington 98501.

WAC 358-40-030 Conduct of business. The general conduct of agency business shall be pursuant to the provisions of chapter 41.64 RCW and Title 358 WAC.

WAC 358-40-040 Office hours. Public records shall be available for inspection and copying from 8:00 a.m. until 12 noon and 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding legal holidays.

WAC 358-40-050 Records availability—Copies obtained. (1) Copies of all public records defined in Title 358 WAC and identified in current indexes maintained in the principal office of the personnel appeals board shall be made available upon request to the public records officer. Response to such requests will be in the order received.

(4) Copies of records will be made available at no more than actual cost as determined by the executive secretary.

WAC 358-40-060 Exemptions—Public records. (1) The public records officer shall determine which public records requested in accordance with these rules are exempt under the provisions of RCW 42.17.310.

(2) Pursuant to RCW 42.17.260, the public records officer may delete identifying details when he/she makes available or publishes any public record and in any cases when there is reason to believe that disclosure of such details would be an invasion of personal privacy protected by chapter 42.17 RCW. The public records officer will justify such deletion in writing.

(3) Denials of requests for public records must be accompanied by a written statement specifying the reason for the denial. A statement of the specific exemption in chapter 42.17 RCW authorizing withholding the record and a brief explanation of how the exemption applies to the record withheld will be included.

(4) Upon written request, denials of requests for public records will be reviewed by the executive secretary within two working days.