Title 253 WAC
HIGHER EDUCATION FACILITIES AUTHORITY

Chapters
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Chapter 253-02 WAC
ORGANIZATION, OPERATIONS AND PROCEDURES

WAC 253-02-010 Purpose. The purpose of this chapter shall be to ensure compliance by the Washington higher education facilities authority with the provisions of chapter 42.17 RCW (Initiative 276), and chapter 34.04 RCW.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 28B.07.040. 84-24-012 (Order 3), § 253-02-010, filed 11/27/84.]

WAC 253-02-020 Rules of interpretation. (1) All adjectives and adverbs, including but not limited to the words "adequate," "approved," "qualified," "reasonable," "reputable," "satisfactory," "sufficiently," and "suitable," as used in this title to qualify a person, procedure, process or otherwise shall be as determined by the authority or its designee.

(2) Where the word "may" is used in this title, the subject rule or action to which the word relates is mandatory.

(3) Where the word "should" is used in this title, it indicates suggestion or recommendation but not a requirement.

(4) Where the word "may" is used in this title, the action or rule to which the word relates is permissive or discretionary.

(5) Words importing the singular number may also be applied to the plural of persons and things; words importing the plural may be applied to the singular; and words importing the masculine gender or relating to a man may also be extended to the feminine gender and be considered to relate equally to a woman.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 28B.07.040. 84-24-012 (Order 3), § 253-02-020, filed 11/27/84.]

WAC 253-02-030 Definitions. (1) "Act" means chapter 169, Laws of 1983, and chapter 28B.07 RCW.

(1997 Ed.)
the chief administrative officer of the authority and subject to its direction. All other staff shall be under his or her supervision and direction. The executive director shall keep a record of the proceedings of the authority and, when required by the authority, shall sign notes, contracts and other instruments. The executive director shall have custody of and be responsible for all moneys and securities of the authority and shall deposit all such moneys forthwith in such banks as the authority may designate from time to time.

(5) Administrative office: The administrative office of the authority shall be located at 1000 Second Avenue, Suite 2700, Seattle, WA 98104-1046, telephone: (206) 464-7139, which office shall be open each day for the transaction of business from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (Saturdays, Sundays and legal holidays excepted, and except for business relating to public records, which is governed by WAC 253-12-050).

(6) Address for communications: All communications with the authority, including but not limited to the submission of materials pertaining to its operations and these rules, requests for copies of the authority's decisions and other matters, shall be addressed as follows: Washington Higher Education Facilities Authority, 1000 Second Avenue, Suite 2700, Seattle, WA 98104-1046.

WAC 253-02-050 Operations and procedures. (1) Uniform procedure rules: Practice and procedure in and before the authority are governed by the uniform procedure rules codified in the Washington Administrative Code, WAC 1-08-005 through 1-08-590, as now or hereafter amended, which rules the authority adopts as its own, subject to any additional rules the authority may add from time to time. The authority reserves the right to make whatever determination is fair and equitable should any question not covered by its rules come before the authority, said determination to be in accordance with the spirit and intent of the law.

(2) Authority meetings: The meetings of the authority shall all be "regular" or "special meetings" as those designations are applied in chapter 42.30 RCW. They may be called at any time and place by the chairman or a majority of the members of the authority. Notice of all special meetings shall be given by delivering personally or by mail to each member a written notice specifying the time and place of the meeting and a copy of the agenda prepared by the executive director in consultation with the chairman, and by giving such notice to the public as may be required by law. If an emergency is deemed to exist, the chairman may shorten the notice period to not less than twenty-four hours. An executive session may be called by the chairman or by a majority of all members of the authority to consider the appointment, employment or dismissal of an officer or employee, and such other matters as are permitted by RCW 42.30.110.

(3) Quorum: Four members shall constitute a quorum, and the act of a majority of the members present at any meeting, if there is a quorum, shall be deemed the act of the authority except as specified hereafter in subsection (7) of this section.

(4) Chairperson's or secretary's voting rights: The chairperson or the chairperson's designee and the secretary shall have the right to vote on all matters before the authority, just as any other authority member.

(5) Minutes of meetings: Minutes shall be kept of the proceedings of the authority.


(7) Form of authority action: The authority may act on the basis of a motion except when authorizing issuance of bonds pursuant to WAC 253-16-070 and when otherwise taking official and formal action with respect to the creation of special funds and the issuance and sale of bonds for a project of a participant, in which case the authority shall act by resolution. Such resolutions shall be adopted upon the affirmative vote of a majority of the members of the authority and shall be signed by a majority of the members of the authority. Motions shall be adopted upon the affirmative vote of a majority of a quorum of members present at any meeting. All bonds and coupons shall bear either the manual or the facsimile signatures of the governor and executive director.

(8) Public participation. The presiding officer may grant permission to any person or organization to make a presentation at any of the authority's public meetings. The presiding officer may limit any remarks addressed to the authority.

WAC 253-12-010 Purpose. The purpose of this chapter shall be to ensure compliance by the Washington higher education facilities authority with the provisions of RCW 42.17.250 through 42.17.340, dealing with public records.

WAC 253-12-020 Definitions. (1) "Public record" includes any writing containing information relating to the conduct of government or the performance of any governmental or propriety function prepared, owned, used or retained by any state or local agency, regardless of physical form or characteristics.
(2) "Writing" means handwriting, typewriting, printing, photostating, photographing and every other means of recording any form of communication or representation, including letters, words, pictures, sounds or symbols, or any combination thereof, and all papers, maps, magnetic or paper tapes, photographic films and prints, magnetic or punched cards, discs, drums and other documents.

(3) "Washington higher education facilities authority" and "authority" each refers to that state agency described in WAC 247-02-030.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 28B.07.040. 84-24-012 (Order 3), § 253-12-020, filed 11/27/84.]

WAC 253-12-030 Public records available. All public records of the authority are deemed to be available for public inspection and copying pursuant to these rules, except as otherwise provided by RCW 42.17.310.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 28B.07.040. 84-24-012 (Order 3), § 253-12-030, filed 11/27/84.]

WAC 253-12-040 Public records officer. The authority’s public records shall be under the charge of the public records officer designated by the executive director of the authority. The person so designated shall be located in the administrative office of the authority. The public records officer shall be responsible for implementing the authority’s rules and regulations regarding release of public records, coordinating the staff of the authority in this regard and generally ensuring compliance by the staff with the public records disclosure requirements of chapter 42.17 RCW.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 28B.07.040. 84-24-012 (Order 3), § 253-12-040, filed 11/27/84.]

WAC 253-12-050 Office hours. Public records shall be available for inspection and copying from 9:00 a.m. to noon and from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding legal holidays.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 28B.07.040. 84-24-012 (Order 3), § 253-12-050, filed 11/27/84.]

WAC 253-12-060 Requests for public records. In accordance with the requirements of chapter 42.17 RCW that agencies prevent unreasonable invasion of privacy, that they protect public records from damage or disorganization and that they prevent excessive interference with essential functions of the agency, public records may be inspected or copied or copies of such records may be obtained by members of the public upon compliance with the following procedures:

A request shall be made in writing upon a form prescribed by the authority, which form shall be available at its administrative office. The form shall be presented by the public records officer, or to any member of the authority’s staff if the public records officer is not available, at the administrative office of the authority during the office hours specified in WAC 253-12-050. The request shall include the following information:

(1) The name of the person requesting the record;

(2) The time of day and calendar date on which the request was made;

(3) The nature of the request;

(4) If the matter requested is referenced within the current index maintained by the public records officer, a reference to the requested record as it is described in such current index;

(5) If the requested matter is not identifiable by reference to the authority’s current index, an appropriate description of the record requested.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 28B.07.040. 84-24-012 (Order 3), § 253-12-060, filed 11/27/84.]

WAC 253-12-070 Copying. No fee shall be charged for the inspection of public records. The authority shall charge a fee of twenty-five cents per page of copy for providing copies of public records and for use of the authority’s copying equipment. This charge is the amount necessary to reimburse the authority for its actual costs incident to such copying.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 28B.07.040. 84-24-012 (Order 3), § 253-12-070, filed 11/27/84.]

WAC 253-12-080 Exemptions and denials of requested public records. (1) The authority reserves the right to determine that a public record requested in accordance with the procedures outlined in WAC 253-12-060 is exempt under the provisions of RCW 42.17.310.

(2) In addition, pursuant to RCW 42.17.260, the authority reserves the right to delete identifying details when it makes available or publishes any public record in any cases where 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 fully justify such deletion in writing.

(3) All denials of requests for public records must be accompanied by a written statement specifying the reason for authorizing the withholding of the record and a brief explanation of how the exemption applies to the record withheld.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 28B.07.040. 84-24-012 (Order 3), § 253-12-080, filed 11/27/84.]

WAC 253-12-090 Review of denials of public records requests. (1) Any person who objects to the denial of a request for a public record may petition for prompt review of such decision by tendering a written request for review. The written request shall specifically refer to the written statement by the public records officer or other staff member which constituted or accompanied the denial.

(2) Immediately after receiving a written request for review of a decision denying a public record, the public records officer or other staff member denying the request shall refer it to the executive director of the authority. The executive director may request that a special meeting of the authority be called as soon as legally possible to review the denial. In any case, the request shall be returned with a final decision within two business days following the original denial.

(3) Administrative remedies shall not be considered exhausted until the authority has returned the petition with a decision or until the close of the second business day following denial of inspection, whichever occurs first.

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WAC 253-12-100 Protection of public records. In order that public records maintained on the premises of the authority may be protected from damage or disorganization as required by chapter 42.17 RCW, the following procedures and practices are hereby instituted:

(1) Upon receipt of a request by a member of the public for a public record, the public records officer or the staff member in the authority’s office receiving the request shall review the request for a public record and the requested public record to determine whether deletions from such record should be made or the request for such record should be denied pursuant to WAC 253-12-080.

(2) Only after a determination has been made that all or such portion of a public record as is not deleted may be inspected shall such public record or portion thereof be made available for inspection by a member of the public.

(3) Only the staff and members of the authority may open authority files to gain access to authority records for either authority business or to respond to a request for a public record.

(4) No public record of the authority may be taken from the premises of the authority by a member of the public.

(5) Public inspection of authority records shall be done only in such locations as are approved by the public records officer, which locations must provide an opportunity for authority staff members to ensure that no public record of the authority is damaged, destroyed, unreasonably disorganized or removed from its proper location or order by a member of the public.

(6) Public records of the authority may be copied only on the copying machines of the authority unless other arrangements are authorized by the public records officer.

WAC 253-12-101 Records index. (1) The authority shall establish a current index which provides identifying information as to the following records issued, adopted or provided by the public records officer.

(a) Final opinions, including concurring and dissenting opinions, as well as orders, made in the adjudication of cases;
(b) Those statements of policy and interpretations of policy statute and the constitution which have been adopted by the authority;
(c) Administrative staff manuals and instructions to staff that affect a member of the public;
(d) Planning policies and goals, and interim and final planning decisions;
(e) Factual staff reports and studies, factual consultants' reports and studies, scientific reports and studies, and reports or surveys, whether conducted by public employees or others; and
(f) Correspondence, and materials referred to therein, by and with the commission relating to any regulatory, supervisory or enforcement responsibilities of the authority whereby the authority determines, or opines upon, or is asked to determine or opine upon the rights of the state, the public, a subdivision of state government or any private party.

(2) The current index promulgated by the authority shall be available to all persons under the same rules and on the same conditions as are applied to public records available for inspection.

Chapter 253-16 WAC

PROCEDURES AND FEES FOR PREPARATION
AND PROCESSING OF APPLICATIONS FOR
AUTHORITY ASSISTANCE

WAC 253-16-010 Purpose. The purpose of this chapter shall be to establish fees for the authority's operations and to set forth procedures relating to the financing process and the designation of underwriters and bond counsel.

WAC 253-16-020 Definitions. (1) "Applicant" means a participant which submits an application to the authority.

(2) "Application" means a formal request for the providing of bonds for the financing of a higher education institution by the authority, in a format and containing such information as the authority shall specify in these rules or in the application instructions and which is signed and sworn to by a representative designated by formal action of the applicant's governing board or equivalent.

WAC 253-16-030 Applications for financial assistance. Authority staff will notify applicants of what information they should provide. Applicants who have questions about the application process should contact authority staff.

WAC 253-16-040 Fees. (1) Authorization to charge fees: The authority, pursuant to chapter 28B.07 RCW, shall require applicants to pay fees and charges to the authority to provide it with funds for expenses of issuance and sale of bonds, and other charges for services provided by the authority in connection with projects undertaken, as well as the operating and administrative expenses of the authority.
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In accordance with this authorization, an applicant shall pay to the authority such fees and charges as are necessary to meet any and all expenses incurred by the authority in connection with the processing of the application of the applicant, together with an annual service fee to defray expenses of the authority in administering and servicing the financing provided to the applicant and other allocable expenses of the authority. The authority shall assess an annual fee of one-tenth of one percent of the outstanding and unredeemed bonds of each applicant. The initial annual fee shall be paid to the authority on the date of closing of each tax exempt note or bond issue and in every anniversary date thereafter: Provided, however, That the authority by an adopted motion may set a different fee schedule and may waive or credit all or any part of the annual or application fee.

(2) Fee obligations of the applicants: An applicant shall submit with its application an initial remittance of: (a) A three thousand seven hundred fifty dollar fee which shall accompany each application for a bond anticipation note; or (b) a seven thousand five hundred dollar fee which shall accompany all other applications for assistance. The authority shall, in its discretion make the final determination whether any application is for a bond anticipation note. The applicant shall pay such fees and charges as they are billed to it from time to time by the authority. These expenses may be reimbursed to the applicants from the bond proceeds if financing is consummated. In addition, the application shall contain an appropriate legal commitment to indemnify the authority against any expenses or costs incurred by it in connection with the processing of the applicant’s application and the completion of any project or plan and system subsequently approved and undertaken by the authority, as well as to pay the authority an annual service fee to defray expenses of the authority in administering and servicing the financing provided to the applicant and other allocable expenses of the authority, which annual fee shall be imposed so long as financing is being provided by the authority to the applicant.

(3) Refund of excess fees: The authority may, from time to time, at its discretion refund any surplus fees paid or deposited by an applicant or participant which the authority believes exceeds the actual application-processing expenses and authority-determined pro rata administrative and operating costs of the authority.

(4) All the costs and expenses of the authority shall be paid from fees assessed pursuant to this section. No moneys of the state of Washington shall be expended for such purposes.

WAC 253-16-050 Processing of application. An application will be reviewed by the executive director and such authority staff as he or she determines. Upon completion of authority staff analysis and recommendations, such staff analysis and recommendations and the application shall be presented to the authority for appropriate action.

WAC 253-16-060 Priorities regarding applicant funding. The authority will process higher educational facility applications for assistance in the order of their date of receipt. The date of receipt shall be the date the higher education facility application together with the application fee is received by the authority at its office.

The authority reserves the right to change priorities and scheduling when the authority determines that a “first come, first served” priority scheduling is detrimental to the sale of another higher educational facility’s bond issue or when conditions of health and safety or public benefit require a different priority.

WAC 253-16-070 Authority action on applications.

(1) The authority shall meet to review and consider the staff analysis and recommendations and the application.

(2) The authority may approve an application and adopt a resolution authorizing the issuance of bonds for the requested financing where it determines:

(a) It is necessary or advisable for the benefit of the higher education system for the authority to provide financing for the proposed project;

(b) The applicant can reasonably be expected to achieve successful completion of the higher education facilities to be financed by the authority;

(c) The proposed project and the issuance of bonds by the authority for such project are economically feasible and can be undertaken on terms economically satisfactory to the authority;

(d) The proposed higher education facility, if completed as described in the application, will carry out the purposes and policies of the act;

(e) The applicant has reasonably satisfied the requirements of the act and these regulations; and

(f) Other criteria that the authority has determined are appropriate factors in its decision-making process have been met.

(3) The authority may approve an application on a conditional basis where the criteria of subsection (2) of this section have been met and pending satisfaction of such other conditions or requirements as the authority shall determine to be reasonable and necessary in order to carry out the purposes, policies and requirements of the act and these regulations. The applicant shall be notified in writing of such conditions or requirements, which may include, but need not be limited to, the amendment of an application or proposed bond resolution in order to meet the availability of funds, changes in costs, or other purposes or circumstances which may enhance the ability of the authority or the applicant to complete the project or better serve the purposes and policies of the act. Upon the satisfaction of such additional conditions or requirements, the application shall be deemed approved pursuant to subsection (2) of this section.

(4) The authority may also deny an application; in such event, it shall notify the applicant of such action, specifying in writing the reasons for its denial.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 28B.07.040. 84-24-012 (Order 3), § 253-16-060, filed 11/27/84.]
WAC 253-16-090 Selection of investment banking firms as underwriters. (1) The authority shall create and maintain a roster of underwriters who the authority believes possesses the requisite special expertise and professional standing to provide bond marketing services which would be accepted by bondholders and other members of the financial community, and which would be in furtherance of the public interest in marketing the authority’s bonds at the lowest possible costs in Washington state as well as nationally. (2) Any underwriter may apply to have its name placed on the roster. Each underwriter placed on the roster must be able to demonstrate current competence and experience in the structuring and sale of higher educational facility bond financing. In addition the underwriter must meet the following minimum standards: (a) The firm must have a minimum equity capital of five million dollars; and (b) The firm must currently possess the competence and ability to underwrite a higher education facility bond issue by demonstrating, among other things, that the firm or its key underwriting personnel have either managed or comanaged two higher educational facility bond issues within the last three calendar years; or (c) The firm has served as a credit facility for a higher education facility within the past three years; or (d) The firm meets other criteria as the authority may adopt from time to time which establish a firm’s ability to prepare for issuance, underwrite and market bonds to be issued by the authority. (3)(a) Whenever the authority decides that it needs the services of an underwriter, it shall provide all underwriters on the roster with a notice of its intentions and shall invite each of them to submit to the authority an itemization of its fees and other charges for providing underwriting services on the issue. The authority shall have wide discretion in selecting the underwriter it considers to be most appropriate to provide the services, but in the exercise of this discretion the authority shall consider the underwriter’s fees and other charges and the public interest in achieving issuance of bonds on terms most favorable to the authority. (b) The applicant may, at its option, exercise the notice and selection procedures regarding underwriters set forth in (a) of this subsection. In such circumstances the applicant shall supply the authority with written verification that it has complied with the provisions of (a) of this subsection and the applicant shall obtain the authority’s prior approval of the actual selection of the underwriter. (4)(a) To provide balanced management knowledge and sale distribution and to assure the most realistic bond terms and interest, the authority reserves the right to name investment banking firms as co-managers of any authority bond issue(s) in the same manner that a senior manager is selected. (5) For private placements the applicants may select a firm as placement agent for its proposed financing, subject to review and approval by the authority. In every instance, the placement agent selected must be able to demonstrate a familiarity with, and competence and experience in, the structuring and sale of higher education facility bonds. The applicant shall notify the authority in writing of its proposed placement agent selection fifteen days prior to the date it intends to enter into a formal contractual agreement. The authority will notify the applicant of its acceptance or rejection of the applicant’s placement agent selection no later than ten days after receipt of the applicant’s notification. If rejected, the authority will set forth the reasons for rejection, and the applicant will then propose another placement agent subject to authority approval in the same manner. The authority shall, in its discretion, make the final determination whether an issue is a private placement. [Statutory Authority: RCW 28B.07.040. 95-19-025, § 253-16-090, filed 9/11/95, effective 10/12/95. Statutory Authority: Chapter 28B.07 RCW. 95-01-007, § 253-16-090, filed 12/8/94, effective 1/8/95. Statutory Authority: RCW 28B.07.040. 87-01-035 (Order 1), § 253-16-090, filed 12/12/86; 84-24-012 (Order 3), § 253-16-090, filed 11/27/84.] WAC 253-16-100 Selection of bond counsel. The authority will establish a roster of bond counsels whom the authority believes possess the requisite special expertise and professional standing to provide bond counsel opinions which would be accepted by the underwriters, bond holders, rating agencies and other members of the financial community, and which would be in furtherance of the public interest in obtaining the lowest possible interest rates on bonds issued by the authority. Law firms or attorneys may submit to the authority at any time the request to be included on the roster of approved bond counsel. At least once every two calendar years, the authority shall select anew an attorney or attorneys to serve as bond counsel. However, the authority may retain an attorney for longer than two years when necessary to complete work on a particular bond issue. An attorney previously selected may be selected again, but the authority will provide other attorneys or bond counsel on the roster with an opportunity to be selected prior to this action being taken. The authority also reserves the right to appoint bond counsel with respect to only a particular bond issue or issues. [Statutory Authority: RCW 28B.07.040. 95-19-025, § 253-16-100, filed 9/11/95, effective 10/12/95; 87-01-035 (Order 1), § 253-16-100, filed 12/12/86; 84-24-012 (Order 3), § 253-16-100, filed 11/27/84.]