

FINAL BILL REPORT

HB 1241

C 11 L 97

Synopsis as Enacted

Brief Description: Limiting political activities of citizen members of the legislative ethics board.

Sponsors: Representatives Pennington, Appelwick, Carlson, D. Schmidt, Wensman, Linville and Mason; by request of Legislative Ethics Board.

House Committee on Government Administration
Senate Committee on Government Operations

Background: The Legislative Ethics Board was created in 1994 and consists of five citizen members, two senators, and two representatives. The board issues advisory opinions and hears complaints with respect to legislators, legislative employees, and ethics in public service.

The citizen members of the Legislative Ethics Board are prohibited from holding or campaigning for partisan elective office or full-time nonpartisan office; serving as an officer of a political party or a political committee; allowing his or her name to be used, or making contributions, in support of or in opposition to any state candidate or ballot measure; or lobbying the Legislature with the exception of a member appearing before a legislative committee on matters pertaining to the board. A citizen member of the board may serve as a precinct committee person.

A citizen member of the Legislative Ethics Board is not prohibited from making contributions or allowing his or her name to be used in connection with state legislative races, nor is a citizen member of the board prohibited from campaigning for a seat in the state Legislature within two years of serving on the board, against an incumbent who was a respondent in a complaint before the board.

Summary: Citizen members of the Legislative Ethics Board are prohibited from: holding or campaigning for partisan elective office or any full-time nonpartisan office; serving as an officer of a political party or political committee; allowing his or her name to be used or making contributions in support of, or opposition to, any legislative candidate, any legislative caucus campaign committee that supports or opposes legislative candidates, or any political action committee that supports or opposes legislative candidates; or lobbying the Legislature under circumstances that are not exempt from lobbyist registration and reporting. Citizen members of the Legislative Ethics Board may serve as a precinct committee person.

In addition, citizen members of the Legislative Ethics Board may not hold or campaign for a seat in the state Legislature within two years of serving on the board if a citizen member opposes an incumbent who has been the respondent of a complaint before the Board.

The prohibition of a citizen member of the Legislative Ethics Board allowing his or her name to be used, or making contributions in support of, or in opposition to, any state candidate or state ballot measure is removed.

Votes on Final Passage:

House 96 0

Senate 47 1

Effective: July 27, 1997