

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Olympia Washington

BilAnalysis

Bill No. HB 1241

Political activities/citizen member/legislative ethics board
Brief title

Public Arg: 1/29/97

Rep. Pennington/Appelwick
Sponsor (Leg Ethics Bd Req.)

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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 and 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, full-time partisan 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 except that a member may appear before a legislative committee on matters pertaining to the Board. Citizen members of the Board may serve as a precinct committee person.

There is no prohibition against a citizen member of the Legislative Ethics Board from making contributions or allowing his or her name to be used in connection with state legislative races. There is also no prohibition against a citizen member of the Board 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.

Continued

SUMMARY:

Citizen members of the Legislative Ethics Board are prohibited from: holding or campaigning for partisan elective office or any full-time partisan 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 in 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 in 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 against a citizen member of the Legislative Ethics Board from allowing his or her name to be used, or make contributions in support of or in opposition to any state candidate or state ballot measure is removed.

FISCAL NOTE: Not requested.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bills passed.