

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Olympia Washington

BilAnalysis

BilNo. HB 2575

Restrictions on PDC members' activities  
Brief title

Hrg Date: 1/28/98

Reps. Pennington/D Schmidt  
Sponsor

Staff Carolee Dineen  
Comm. on Govt. Admin.  
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**BACKGROUND:**

Chapter 42.17 RCW, Washington's public disclosure statute, includes a policy of promoting full disclosure of information relating to political campaigns and lobbying contributions, as well as the financial affairs of elected officials and candidates. This chapter also assures public access to state and local agency records with certain exceptions.

The Public Disclosure Commission (the PDC) is a five-member board appointed by the Governor with the consent of the Senate. PDC members are appointed for five-year terms.

PDC members are prohibited by RCW 42.17.350 from engaging in any of the following activities:

- Holding or campaigning for public office;
- Serving as an officer of any political party or political committee;
- Permitting his or her name to be used in any election campaign;
- Participating in any way in any election campaign; and
- Lobbying, employing or assisting a lobbyist with limited exceptions.

Public office is defined by statute to include any federal, state or local elective office. An election campaign is defined generally as any campaign supporting or opposing a candidate for ballot proposition.

**SUMMARY:**

The section establishing the Public Disclosure Commission is amended to clarify that the statutory prohibitions apply both within and outside the state of Washington.

PDC members are expressly prohibited from engaging in any of the activities enumerated in RCW 42.17.350, regardless of whether the activity occurs within or outside Washington.

Organizational changes are made to this section. References to appointment and initial terms of Public Disclosure Commission members are deleted.

**FISCAL NOTE:** Not requested.

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