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**SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5143**

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**State of Washington**

**69th Legislature**

**2025 Regular Session**

**By** Senate State Government, Tribal Affairs & Elections (originally sponsored by Senators Gildon, Pedersen, and Nobles; by request of Legislative Ethics Board)

READ FIRST TIME 02/11/25.

1 AN ACT Relating to the ethics in public service act; amending RCW  
2 42.52.010, 42.52.030, 42.52.070, 42.52.080, 42.52.090, 42.52.110,  
3 42.52.120, 42.52.150, 42.52.150, 42.52.160, 42.52.180, 42.52.180,  
4 42.52.220, 42.52.320, 42.52.480, 42.52.490, 42.52.805, 42.52.810,  
5 42.17A.005, 29B.10.270, 42.17A.615, 29B.50.050, 42.17A.620,  
6 29B.50.060, 42.17A.710, and 29B.55.030; reenacting and amending RCW  
7 42.52.010; adding a new section to chapter 42.52 RCW; repealing RCW  
8 42.52.140, 42.52.340, and 42.52.801; providing an effective date; and  
9 providing an expiration date.

10 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

11 **Sec. 1.** RCW 42.52.010 and 2022 c 173 s 1 and 2022 c 71 s 15 are  
12 each reenacted and amended to read as follows:

13 Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in  
14 this section apply throughout this chapter.

15 (1) "Agency" means any state board, commission, bureau,  
16 committee, department, institution, division, or tribunal in the  
17 legislative, executive, or judicial branch of state government.  
18 "Agency" includes all elective offices, the state legislature, those  
19 institutions of higher education created and supported by the state  
20 government, and those courts that are parts of state government.  
21 "Agency" does not include a comprehensive cancer center participating

1 in a collaborative arrangement as defined in RCW 28B.10.930 that is  
2 operated in conformance with RCW 28B.10.930.

3 (2) "Appearance" means the act of performing or participating in  
4 an event.

5 (3) "Assist" means to act, or offer or agree to act, in such a  
6 way as to help, aid, advise, furnish information to, or otherwise  
7 provide assistance to another person, believing that the action is of  
8 help, aid, advice, or assistance to the person and with intent so to  
9 assist such person.

10 ~~((3))~~ (4) "Beneficial interest" has the meaning ascribed to it  
11 under the Washington case law. However, an ownership interest in a  
12 mutual fund or similar investment pooling fund in which the owner has  
13 no management powers does not constitute a beneficial interest in the  
14 entities in which the fund or pool invests.

15 ~~((4))~~ (5) "Charitable association, institution, or  
16 organization" means any entity that provides services beneficial to  
17 the public to an open class of people.

18 (6) "Civic organization" means a nonprofit group relating to the  
19 duties or activities of people in relation to their town, city, or  
20 local area.

21 (7) "Community organization" means an organization aimed at  
22 making desired improvements to a community's social health, well-  
23 being, and overall functioning.

24 (8) "Compensation" means anything of economic value, however  
25 designated, that is paid, loaned, granted, or transferred, or to be  
26 paid, loaned, granted, or transferred for, or in consideration of,  
27 personal services to any person.

28 ~~((5))~~ (9) "Confidential information" means (a) specific  
29 information, rather than generalized knowledge, that is not available  
30 to the general public on request or (b) information made confidential  
31 by law.

32 ~~((6))~~ (10) "Contract" or "grant" means an agreement between two  
33 or more persons that creates an obligation to do or not to do a  
34 particular thing. "Contract" or "grant" includes, but is not limited  
35 to, an employment contract, a lease, a license, a purchase agreement,  
36 or a sales agreement.

37 ~~((7))~~ (11) "Emergency" means a serious, unexpected, and often  
38 dangerous situation requiring immediate action.

39 (12) "Ethics boards" means the commission on judicial conduct,  
40 the legislative ethics board, and the executive ethics board.

1       ~~((8))~~ (13) "Extraordinary award" means a national, state, or  
2 local award with very few recipients that is sufficiently infrequent  
3 to be noteworthy to a reasonable person.

4       (14) "Family" has the same meaning as "immediate family" in RCW  
5 42.17A.005.

6       ~~((9) "Gift" means anything of economic value for which no~~  
7 ~~consideration is given. "Gift" does not include:~~

8       ~~(a) Items from family members or friends where it is clear beyond~~  
9 ~~a reasonable doubt that the gift was not made as part of any design~~  
10 ~~to gain or maintain influence in the agency of which the recipient is~~  
11 ~~an officer or employee;~~

12       ~~(b) Items related to the outside business of the recipient that~~  
13 ~~are customary and not related to the recipient's performance of~~  
14 ~~official duties;~~

15       ~~(c) Items exchanged among officials and employees or a social~~  
16 ~~event hosted or sponsored by a state officer or state employee for~~  
17 ~~coworkers;~~

18       ~~(d) Payments by a governmental or nongovernmental entity of~~  
19 ~~reasonable expenses incurred in connection with a speech,~~  
20 ~~presentation, appearance, or trade mission made in an official~~  
21 ~~capacity. As used in this subsection, "reasonable expenses" are~~  
22 ~~limited to travel, lodging, and subsistence expenses incurred the day~~  
23 ~~before through the day after the event;~~

24       ~~(e) Items a state officer or state employee is authorized by law~~  
25 ~~to accept;~~

26       ~~(f) Payment of enrollment and course fees and reasonable travel~~  
27 ~~expenses attributable to attending seminars and educational programs~~  
28 ~~sponsored by a bona fide governmental or nonprofit professional,~~  
29 ~~educational, trade, or charitable association or institution. As used~~  
30 ~~in this subsection, "reasonable expenses" are limited to travel,~~  
31 ~~lodging, and subsistence expenses incurred the day before through the~~  
32 ~~day after the event;~~

33       ~~(g) Items returned by the recipient to the donor within thirty~~  
34 ~~days of receipt or donated to a charitable organization within thirty~~  
35 ~~days of receipt;~~

36       ~~(h) Campaign contributions reported under chapter 42.17A RCW;~~

37       ~~(i) Discounts available to an individual as a member of an~~  
38 ~~employee group, occupation, or similar broad-based group; and~~

39       ~~(j) Awards, prizes, scholarships, or other items provided in~~  
40 ~~recognition of academic or scientific achievement.~~

1       ~~(10)~~) (15) "Federal holiday" means the legal public holidays  
2 provided in 5 U.S.C. Sec. 6103(a), as it existed on the effective  
3 date of this section.

4       (16) "Head of agency" means the chief executive officer of an  
5 agency. In the case of an agency headed by a commission, board,  
6 committee, or other body consisting of more than one natural person,  
7 agency head means the person or board authorized to appoint agency  
8 employees and regulate their conduct.

9       ~~((11))~~) (17) "Honorarium" means money or thing of value offered  
10 to a state officer or state employee for a speech, appearance,  
11 article, or similar item or activity in connection with the state  
12 officer's or state employee's official role.

13       ~~((12))~~) (18) "Institution of higher education" has the same  
14 meaning as in RCW 28B.10.016.

15       ~~((13))~~) (19) "Lobbying the legislature" means attempting to  
16 influence the passage or defeat of any legislation by the legislature  
17 of the state of Washington.

18       (20) "Official duty" means those duties within the specific scope  
19 of employment of the state officer or state employee as defined by  
20 the officer's or employee's agency or by statute or the state  
21 Constitution.

22       ~~((14))~~) (21) "Official position" means holding an office or  
23 having authority.

24       (22) "Participate" means to participate in state action or a  
25 proceeding personally and substantially as a state officer or state  
26 employee, through approval, disapproval, decision, recommendation,  
27 the rendering of advice, investigation, or otherwise but does not  
28 include preparation, consideration, or enactment of legislation or  
29 the performance of legislative duties.

30       ~~((15))~~) (23) "Person" means any individual, partnership,  
31 association, corporation, firm, institution, or other entity, whether  
32 or not operated for profit.

33       ~~((16))~~) (24) "Regulatory agency" means any state board,  
34 commission, department, or officer, except those in the legislative  
35 or judicial branches, authorized by law to conduct adjudicative  
36 proceedings, issue permits or licenses, or to control or affect  
37 interests of identified persons.

38       ~~((17))~~) (25) "Responsibility" in connection with a transaction  
39 involving the state, means the direct administrative or operating  
40 authority, whether intermediate or final, and either exercisable

1 alone or through subordinates, effectively to approve, disapprove, or  
2 otherwise direct state action in respect of such transaction.

3 ~~((18))~~ (26) "State action" means any action on the part of an  
4 agency, including, but not limited to:

5 (a) A decision, determination, finding, ruling, or order; and

6 (b) A grant, payment, award, license, contract, transaction,  
7 sanction, or approval, or the denial thereof, or failure to act with  
8 respect to a decision, determination, finding, ruling, or order.

9 ~~((19))~~ (27) "State employee" means an individual who is  
10 employed by an agency in any branch of state government. For purposes  
11 of this chapter, employees of the superior courts are not state  
12 officers or state employees.

13 ~~((20))~~ (28) "State officer" means every person holding a  
14 position of public trust in or under an executive, legislative, or  
15 judicial office of the state. "State officer" includes judges of the  
16 superior court, judges of the court of appeals, justices of the  
17 supreme court, members of the legislature together with the secretary  
18 of the senate and the chief clerk of the house of representatives,  
19 holders of elective offices in the executive branch of state  
20 government, chief executive officers of state agencies, members of  
21 boards, commissions, or committees with authority over one or more  
22 state agencies or institutions, and employees of the state who are  
23 engaged in supervisory, policy-making, or policy-enforcing work. For  
24 the purposes of this chapter, "state officer" also includes any  
25 person exercising or undertaking to exercise the powers or functions  
26 of a state officer.

27 ~~((21))~~ (29) "Thing of economic value," in addition to its  
28 ordinary meaning, includes:

29 (a) A loan, property interest, interest in a contract or other  
30 chose in action, and employment or another arrangement involving a  
31 right to compensation;

32 (b) An option, irrespective of the conditions to the exercise of  
33 the option; and

34 (c) A promise or undertaking for the present or future delivery  
35 or procurement.

36 ~~((22))~~ (30)(a) "Transaction involving the state" means a  
37 proceeding, application, submission, request for a ruling or other  
38 determination, contract, claim, case, or other similar matter that  
39 the state officer, state employee, or former state officer or state  
40 employee in question believes, or has reason to believe:

1 (i) Is, or will be, the subject of state action; or  
2 (ii) Is one to which the state is or will be a party; or  
3 (iii) Is one in which the state has a direct and substantial  
4 proprietary interest.

5 (b) "Transaction involving the state" does not include the  
6 following: Preparation, consideration, or enactment of legislation,  
7 including appropriation of moneys in a budget, or the performance of  
8 legislative duties by an officer or employee; or a claim, case,  
9 lawsuit, or similar matter if the officer or employee did not  
10 participate in the underlying transaction involving the state that is  
11 the basis for the claim, case, or lawsuit.

12 (~~(23)~~) (31) "University" includes "state universities" and  
13 "regional universities" as defined in RCW 28B.10.016 and also  
14 includes any research or technology institute affiliated with a  
15 university.

16 (~~(24)~~) (32) "University research employee" means a state  
17 officer or state employee employed by a university, but only to the  
18 extent the state officer or state employee is engaged in research,  
19 technology transfer, approved consulting activities related to  
20 research and technology transfer, or other incidental activities.

21 **Sec. 2.** RCW 42.52.010 and 2024 c 164 s 513 are each amended to  
22 read as follows:

23 Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in  
24 this section apply throughout this chapter.

25 (1) "Agency" means any state board, commission, bureau,  
26 committee, department, institution, division, or tribunal in the  
27 legislative, executive, or judicial branch of state government.  
28 "Agency" includes all elective offices, the state legislature, those  
29 institutions of higher education created and supported by the state  
30 government, and those courts that are parts of state government.  
31 "Agency" does not include a comprehensive cancer center participating  
32 in a collaborative arrangement as defined in RCW 28B.10.930 that is  
33 operated in conformance with RCW 28B.10.930.

34 (2) "Appearance" means the act of performing or participating in  
35 an event.

36 (3) "Assist" means to act, or offer or agree to act, in such a  
37 way as to help, aid, advise, furnish information to, or otherwise  
38 provide assistance to another person, believing that the action is of

1 help, aid, advice, or assistance to the person and with intent so to  
2 assist such person.

3 ~~((3))~~ (4) "Beneficial interest" has the meaning ascribed to it  
4 under the Washington case law. However, an ownership interest in a  
5 mutual fund or similar investment pooling fund in which the owner has  
6 no management powers does not constitute a beneficial interest in the  
7 entities in which the fund or pool invests.

8 ~~((4))~~ "Charitable association, institution, or organization"  
9 means any entity that provides services beneficial to the public to  
10 an open class of people.

11 (6) "Civic organization" means a nonprofit group relating to the  
12 duties or activities of people in relation to their town, city, or  
13 local area.

14 (7) "Community organization" means an organization aimed at  
15 making desired improvements to a community's social health, well-  
16 being, and overall functioning.

17 (8) "Compensation" means anything of economic value, however  
18 designated, that is paid, loaned, granted, or transferred, or to be  
19 paid, loaned, granted, or transferred for, or in consideration of,  
20 personal services to any person.

21 ~~((5))~~ (9) "Confidential information" means (a) specific  
22 information, rather than generalized knowledge, that is not available  
23 to the general public on request or (b) information made confidential  
24 by law.

25 ~~((6))~~ (10) "Contract" or "grant" means an agreement between two  
26 or more persons that creates an obligation to do or not to do a  
27 particular thing. "Contract" or "grant" includes, but is not limited  
28 to, an employment contract, a lease, a license, a purchase agreement,  
29 or a sales agreement.

30 ~~((7))~~ (11) "Emergency" means a serious, unexpected, and often  
31 dangerous situation requiring immediate action.

32 (12) "Ethics boards" means the commission on judicial conduct,  
33 the legislative ethics board, and the executive ethics board.

34 ~~((8))~~ (13) "Extraordinary award" means a national, state, or  
35 local award with very few recipients that is sufficiently infrequent  
36 to be noteworthy to a reasonable person.

37 (14) "Family" has the same meaning as "immediate family" in RCW  
38 29B.10.280.

39 ~~((9))~~ "Gift" means anything of economic value for which no  
40 consideration is given. "Gift" does not include:

1 ~~(a) Items from family members or friends where it is clear beyond~~  
2 ~~a reasonable doubt that the gift was not made as part of any design~~  
3 ~~to gain or maintain influence in the agency of which the recipient is~~  
4 ~~an officer or employee;~~

5 ~~(b) Items related to the outside business of the recipient that~~  
6 ~~are customary and not related to the recipient's performance of~~  
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8 ~~(c) Items exchanged among officials and employees or a social~~  
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11 ~~(d) Payments by a governmental or nongovernmental entity of~~  
12 ~~reasonable expenses incurred in connection with a speech,~~  
13 ~~presentation, appearance, or trade mission made in an official~~  
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15 ~~limited to travel, lodging, and subsistence expenses incurred the day~~  
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19 ~~(f) Payment of enrollment and course fees and reasonable travel~~  
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21 ~~sponsored by a bona fide governmental or nonprofit professional,~~  
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23 ~~in this subsection, "reasonable expenses" are limited to travel,~~  
24 ~~lodging, and subsistence expenses incurred the day before through the~~  
25 ~~day after the event;~~

26 ~~(g) Items returned by the recipient to the donor within 30 days~~  
27 ~~of receipt or donated to a charitable organization within 30 days of~~  
28 ~~receipt;~~

29 ~~(h) Campaign contributions reported under Title 29B RCW;~~

30 ~~(i) Discounts available to an individual as a member of an~~  
31 ~~employee group, occupation, or similar broad-based group; and~~

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33 ~~recognition of academic or scientific achievement.~~

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35 provided in 5 U.S.C. Sec. 6103(a), as it existed on the effective  
36 date of this section.

37 (16) "Head of agency" means the chief executive officer of an  
38 agency. In the case of an agency headed by a commission, board,  
39 committee, or other body consisting of more than one natural person,

1 agency head means the person or board authorized to appoint agency  
2 employees and regulate their conduct.

3 ~~((11))~~ (17) "Honorarium" means money or thing of value offered  
4 to a state officer or state employee for a speech, appearance,  
5 article, or similar item or activity in connection with the state  
6 officer's or state employee's official role.

7 ~~((12))~~ (18) "Institution of higher education" has the same  
8 meaning as in RCW 28B.10.016.

9 ~~((13))~~ (19) "Lobbying the legislature" means attempting to  
10 influence the passage or defeat of any legislation by the legislature  
11 of the state of Washington.

12 (20) "Official duty" means those duties within the specific scope  
13 of employment of the state officer or state employee as defined by  
14 the officer's or employee's agency or by statute or the state  
15 Constitution.

16 ~~((14))~~ (21) "Official position" means holding an office or  
17 having authority.

18 (22) "Participate" means to participate in state action or a  
19 proceeding personally and substantially as a state officer or state  
20 employee, through approval, disapproval, decision, recommendation,  
21 the rendering of advice, investigation, or otherwise but does not  
22 include preparation, consideration, or enactment of legislation or  
23 the performance of legislative duties.

24 ~~((15))~~ (23) "Person" means any individual, partnership,  
25 association, corporation, firm, institution, or other entity, whether  
26 or not operated for profit.

27 ~~((16))~~ (24) "Regulatory agency" means any state board,  
28 commission, department, or officer, except those in the legislative  
29 or judicial branches, authorized by law to conduct adjudicative  
30 proceedings, issue permits or licenses, or to control or affect  
31 interests of identified persons.

32 ~~((17))~~ (25) "Responsibility" in connection with a transaction  
33 involving the state, means the direct administrative or operating  
34 authority, whether intermediate or final, and either exercisable  
35 alone or through subordinates, effectively to approve, disapprove, or  
36 otherwise direct state action in respect of such transaction.

37 ~~((18))~~ (26) "State action" means any action on the part of an  
38 agency, including, but not limited to:

39 (a) A decision, determination, finding, ruling, or order; and

1 (b) A grant, payment, award, license, contract, transaction,  
2 sanction, or approval, or the denial thereof, or failure to act with  
3 respect to a decision, determination, finding, ruling, or order.

4 (~~(19)~~) (27) "State employee" means an individual who is  
5 employed by an agency in any branch of state government. For purposes  
6 of this chapter, employees of the superior courts are not state  
7 officers or state employees.

8 (~~(20)~~) (28) "State officer" means every person holding a  
9 position of public trust in or under an executive, legislative, or  
10 judicial office of the state. "State officer" includes judges of the  
11 superior court, judges of the court of appeals, justices of the  
12 supreme court, members of the legislature together with the secretary  
13 of the senate and the chief clerk of the house of representatives,  
14 holders of elective offices in the executive branch of state  
15 government, chief executive officers of state agencies, members of  
16 boards, commissions, or committees with authority over one or more  
17 state agencies or institutions, and employees of the state who are  
18 engaged in supervisory, policy-making, or policy-enforcing work. For  
19 the purposes of this chapter, "state officer" also includes any  
20 person exercising or undertaking to exercise the powers or functions  
21 of a state officer.

22 (~~(21)~~) (29) "Thing of economic value," in addition to its  
23 ordinary meaning, includes:

24 (a) A loan, property interest, interest in a contract or other  
25 chose in action, and employment or another arrangement involving a  
26 right to compensation;

27 (b) An option, irrespective of the conditions to the exercise of  
28 the option; and

29 (c) A promise or undertaking for the present or future delivery  
30 or procurement.

31 (~~(22)~~) (30)(a) "Transaction involving the state" means a  
32 proceeding, application, submission, request for a ruling or other  
33 determination, contract, claim, case, or other similar matter that  
34 the state officer, state employee, or former state officer or state  
35 employee in question believes, or has reason to believe:

36 (i) Is, or will be, the subject of state action; or

37 (ii) Is one to which the state is or will be a party; or

38 (iii) Is one in which the state has a direct and substantial  
39 proprietary interest.

1 (b) "Transaction involving the state" does not include the  
2 following: Preparation, consideration, or enactment of legislation,  
3 including appropriation of moneys in a budget, or the performance of  
4 legislative duties by an officer or employee; or a claim, case,  
5 lawsuit, or similar matter if the officer or employee did not  
6 participate in the underlying transaction involving the state that is  
7 the basis for the claim, case, or lawsuit.

8 ~~((23))~~ (31) "University" includes "state universities" and  
9 "regional universities" as defined in RCW 28B.10.016 and also  
10 includes any research or technology institute affiliated with a  
11 university.

12 ~~((24))~~ (32) "University research employee" means a state  
13 officer or state employee employed by a university, but only to the  
14 extent the state officer or state employee is engaged in research,  
15 technology transfer, approved consulting activities related to  
16 research and technology transfer, or other incidental activities.

17 **Sec. 3.** RCW 42.52.030 and 2005 c 106 s 2 are each amended to  
18 read as follows:

19 (1) No state officer or state employee, except as provided in  
20 subsection (2) of this section, may ~~((be beneficially interested,~~  
21 ~~directly or indirectly,))~~ have a beneficial interest in a contract,  
22 sale, lease, purchase, or grant that may be made by, through, or is  
23 under the supervision of the officer or employee, in whole or in  
24 part, or accept ~~((, directly or indirectly,))~~ any compensation,  
25 gratuity, or reward from any other person ~~((beneficially interested))~~  
26 who has a beneficial interest in the contract, sale, lease, purchase,  
27 or grant.

28 (2) No state officer or state employee may participate in a  
29 transaction involving the state in his or her official capacity with  
30 a person of which the officer or employee is an officer, agent,  
31 employee, or member, or in which the officer or employee owns a  
32 beneficial interest, except that an officer or employee of an  
33 institution of higher education ~~((or the Spokane intercollegiate  
34 research and technology institute))~~ may serve as an officer, agent,  
35 employee, or member, or on the board of directors, board of trustees,  
36 advisory board, or committee or review panel for any nonprofit  
37 institute, foundation, or fund-raising entity; and may serve as a  
38 member of an advisory board, committee, or review panel for a  
39 governmental or other nonprofit entity.

1       **Sec. 4.** RCW 42.52.070 and 2022 c 37 s 1 are each amended to read  
2 as follows:

3       (1) Except as required to perform duties within the scope of  
4 employment, no state officer or state employee may use his or her  
5 position to secure special privileges or exemptions for himself or  
6 herself, or his or her spouse, child, parents, or other persons.

7       (2) For purposes of this section, and only as applied to  
8 legislators and employees under the jurisdiction of the legislative  
9 ethics board, activities within the scope of employment include but  
10 are not limited to duties enumerated in law and activities that have  
11 a tangible legislative nexus as described in section 12 of this act.

12 (~~Activities with a legislative nexus include but are not limited to:~~

13       ~~(a) Communications directly pertaining to any legislative~~  
14 ~~proposal which has been introduced in either chamber of the~~  
15 ~~legislature; and~~

16       ~~(b) Posting information to a legislator's official legislative~~  
17 ~~website, including an official legislative social media account,~~  
18 ~~about:~~

19       ~~(i) Emergencies;~~

20       ~~(ii) Federal holidays, state and legislatively recognized~~  
21 ~~holidays established under RCW 1.16.050, and religious holidays;~~

22       ~~(iii) Information originally provided or published by other~~  
23 ~~government entities which provide information about government~~  
24 ~~resources; and~~

25       ~~(iv) Achievements, honors, or awards of extraordinary~~  
26 ~~distinction.~~

27       ~~(3) It is not a violation of this section for a legislator or an~~  
28 ~~appropriate legislative staff designee to engage in activities listed~~  
29 ~~in subsection (2) of this section.~~

30       ~~(4))~~ (3) For purposes of this section, and only as applied to  
31 legislators and employees of the legislative branch, "special  
32 privileges" includes, but is not limited to, engaging in behavior  
33 that constitutes harassment. As used in this section:

34       (a) "Harassment" means engaging in physical, verbal, visual, or  
35 psychological conduct that:

36       (i) Has the purpose or effect of interfering with the person's  
37 work performance;

38       (ii) Creates a hostile, intimidating, or offensive work  
39 environment; or

40       (iii) Constitutes sexual harassment.

1 (b) "Sexual harassment" means unwelcome or unwanted sexual  
2 advances, requests for sexual or romantic favors, sexually motivated  
3 bullying, or other verbal, visual, physical, or psychological conduct  
4 or communication of a sexual or romantic nature, when:

5 (i) Submission to the conduct or communication is either  
6 explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of current or future  
7 employment;

8 (ii) Submission to or rejection of the conduct or communication  
9 is used as the basis of an employment decision affecting the person;  
10 or

11 (iii) The conduct or communication unreasonably interferes with  
12 the person's job performance or creates a work environment that is  
13 hostile, intimidating, or offensive.

14 **Sec. 5.** RCW 42.52.080 and 1999 c 299 s 3 are each amended to  
15 read as follows:

16 (1) No former state officer or state employee may, within a  
17 period of one year from the date of termination of state employment,  
18 accept employment or receive compensation from an employer if:

19 (a) The officer or employee, during the two years immediately  
20 preceding termination of state employment, was engaged in the  
21 negotiation or administration on behalf of the state or agency of one  
22 or more contracts with that employer and was in a position to make  
23 discretionary decisions affecting the outcome of such negotiation or  
24 the nature of such administration;

25 (b) Such a contract or contracts have a total value of more than  
26 ten thousand dollars; and

27 (c) The duties of the employment with the employer or the  
28 activities for which the compensation would be received include  
29 fulfilling or implementing, in whole or in part, the provisions of  
30 such a contract or contracts or include the supervision or control of  
31 actions taken to fulfill or implement, in whole or in part, the  
32 provisions of such a contract or contracts. This subsection shall not  
33 be construed to prohibit a state officer or state employee from  
34 accepting employment with a state employee organization.

35 (2) No person who has served as a state officer or state employee  
36 may, within a period of two years following the termination of state  
37 employment, have a (~~direct or indirect~~) beneficial interest in a  
38 contract or grant that was expressly authorized or funded by specific

1 legislative or executive action in which the former state officer or  
2 state employee participated.

3 (3) No former state officer or state employee may accept an offer  
4 of employment or receive compensation from an employer if the officer  
5 or employee knows or has reason to believe that the offer of  
6 employment or compensation was intended, in whole or in part,  
7 directly or indirectly, to influence the officer or employee or as  
8 compensation or reward for the performance or nonperformance of a  
9 duty by the officer or employee during the course of state  
10 employment.

11 (4) No former state officer or state employee may accept an offer  
12 of employment or receive compensation from an employer if the  
13 circumstances would lead a reasonable person to believe the offer has  
14 been made, or compensation given, for the purpose of influencing the  
15 performance or nonperformance of duties by the officer or employee  
16 during the course of state employment.

17 (5) No former state officer or state employee may at any time  
18 subsequent to his or her state employment assist another person,  
19 whether or not for compensation, in any transaction involving the  
20 state in which the former state officer or state employee at any time  
21 participated during state employment. This subsection shall not be  
22 construed to prohibit any employee or officer of a state employee  
23 organization from rendering assistance to state officers or state  
24 employees in the course of employee organization business.

25 (6) As used in this section, "employer" means a person as defined  
26 in RCW 42.52.010 or any other entity or business that the person owns  
27 or in which the person has a controlling interest. For purposes of  
28 subsection (1) of this section, the term "employer" does not include  
29 a successor organization to the rural development council under  
30 chapter 43.31 RCW.

31 **Sec. 6.** RCW 42.52.090 and 1994 c 154 s 109 are each amended to  
32 read as follows:

33 This chapter shall not be construed to prevent a former state  
34 officer or state employee from rendering assistance to others if the  
35 assistance is provided without compensation in any form and is  
36 limited to one or more of the following:

37 (1) Providing the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of  
38 state agencies or state employees;

1 (2) Providing free transportation to another for the purpose of  
2 conducting business with a state agency;

3 (3) Assisting (~~(a natural person)~~) an individual or nonprofit  
4 corporation in obtaining or completing application forms or other  
5 forms required by a state agency for the conduct of a state business;  
6 or

7 (4) Providing assistance to the poor and infirm.

8 **Sec. 7.** RCW 42.52.110 and 1996 c 213 s 5 are each amended to  
9 read as follows:

10 No state officer or state employee may, directly or indirectly,  
11 ask for or give or receive or agree to receive any compensation,  
12 gift, reward, or gratuity from a source for performing or omitting or  
13 deferring the performance of any official duty, unless otherwise  
14 authorized by law except: (1) The state of Washington; or (2) in the  
15 case of officers or employees of institutions of higher education  
16 (~~(or of the Spokane intercollegiate research and technology~~  
17 ~~institute)~~), a governmental entity, an agency or instrumentality of a  
18 governmental entity, or a nonprofit corporation organized for the  
19 benefit and support of the state employee's agency or other state  
20 agencies pursuant to an agreement with the state employee's agency.

21 **Sec. 8.** RCW 42.52.120 and 1997 c 318 s 1 are each amended to  
22 read as follows:

23 (1) No state officer or state employee may receive any thing of  
24 economic value under any contract or grant outside of his or her  
25 official duties. The prohibition in this subsection does not apply  
26 where the state officer or state employee has (~~(complied with RCW~~  
27 ~~42.52.030(2) or)~~) met each of the following conditions (~~(are met)~~):

28 (a) The contract or grant is bona fide and actually performed;

29 (b) The performance or administration of the contract or grant is  
30 not within the course of the officer's or employee's official duties,  
31 or is not under the officer's or employee's official supervision;

32 (c) The performance of the contract or grant is not prohibited by  
33 RCW 42.52.040 or by applicable laws or rules governing outside  
34 employment for the officer or employee;

35 (d) The contract or grant is neither performed for nor  
36 compensated by any person from whom such officer or employee would be  
37 prohibited by RCW 42.52.150(~~(+4)~~) (6) from receiving a gift;

1 (e) The contract or grant is not one expressly created or  
2 authorized by the officer or employee in his or her official  
3 capacity;

4 (f) The contract or grant would not require unauthorized  
5 disclosure of confidential information.

6 (2) In addition to satisfying the requirements of subsection (1)  
7 of this section, a state officer or state employee may have a  
8 beneficial interest in a grant or contract or a series of  
9 substantially identical contracts or grants with a state agency only  
10 if:

11 (a) The contract or grant is awarded or issued as a result of an  
12 open and competitive bidding process in which more than one bid or  
13 grant application was received; or

14 (b) The contract or grant is awarded or issued as a result of an  
15 open and competitive bidding or selection process in which the  
16 officer's or employee's bid or proposal was the only bid or proposal  
17 received and the officer or employee has been advised by the  
18 appropriate ethics board, before execution of the contract or grant,  
19 that the contract or grant would not be in conflict with the proper  
20 discharge of the officer's or employee's official duties; or

21 (c) The process for awarding the contract or issuing the grant is  
22 not open and competitive, but the officer or employee has been  
23 advised by the appropriate ethics board after the contract or grant  
24 has been awarded that the contract or grant would not be in conflict  
25 with the proper discharge of the officer's or employee's official  
26 duties.

27 (3) A state officer or state employee awarded a contract or  
28 issued a grant in compliance with subsection (2) of this section  
29 shall file the contract or grant with the appropriate ethics board  
30 within thirty days after the date of execution; however, if  
31 proprietary formulae, designs, drawings, or research are included in  
32 the contract or grant, the proprietary formulae, designs, drawings,  
33 or research may be deleted from the contract or grant filed with the  
34 appropriate ethics board.

35 (4) This section does not prevent a state officer or state  
36 employee from receiving compensation contributed from the treasury of  
37 the United States, another state, county, or municipality if the  
38 compensation is received pursuant to arrangements entered into  
39 between such state, county, municipality, or the United States and  
40 the officer's or employee's agency. This section does not prohibit a

1 state officer or state employee from serving or performing any duties  
2 under an employment contract with a governmental entity.

3 (5) As used in this section, "officer" and "employee" do not  
4 include officers and employees who, in accordance with the terms of  
5 their employment or appointment, are serving without compensation  
6 from the state of Washington or are receiving from the state only  
7 reimbursement of expenses incurred or a predetermined allowance for  
8 such expenses.

9 **Sec. 9.** RCW 42.52.150 and 2023 c 91 s 2 are each amended to read  
10 as follows:

11 (1)(a) Unless the context requires otherwise, the definition of  
12 "gift" in this subsection applies throughout this chapter.

13 (b) "Gift" means anything of economic value for which no  
14 consideration is given.

15 (c) "Gift" does not include the following:

16 (i) Items from family members or friends where it is clear beyond  
17 a reasonable doubt that the gift was not made as part of any design  
18 to gain or maintain influence in the agency of which the recipient is  
19 an officer or employee;

20 (ii) Items related to the outside business of the recipient that  
21 are customary and not related to the recipient's performance of  
22 official duties;

23 (iii) Items exchanged among officials and employees at a social  
24 event hosted or sponsored by a state officer or state employee for  
25 coworkers;

26 (iv) Payments by a governmental or nongovernmental entity of  
27 reasonable expenses incurred in connection with a speech,  
28 presentation, appearance, or trade mission made in an official  
29 capacity. As used in this subsection, "reasonable expenses" are  
30 limited to travel, lodging, and subsistence expenses incurred the day  
31 before through the day after the event;

32 (v) Items a state officer or state employee is authorized by law  
33 to accept;

34 (vi) Payment of enrollment and course fees and reasonable travel  
35 expenses attributable to attending seminars and educational programs  
36 sponsored by a bona fide governmental or nonprofit professional,  
37 educational, trade, or charitable association or institution. As used  
38 in this subsection, "reasonable expenses" are limited to travel,

1 lodging, and subsistence expenses incurred the day before through the  
2 day after the event;

3 (vii) Items returned by the recipient to the donor within 30 days  
4 of receipt or donated to a charitable organization within 30 days of  
5 receipt;

6 (viii) Campaign contributions reported under chapter 42.17A RCW;

7 (ix) Discounts available to an individual as a member of an  
8 employee group, occupation, or similar broad-based group;

9 (x) Awards, prizes, scholarships, or other items provided in  
10 recognition of academic or scientific achievement; and

11 (xi) Gift cards received by legislative employees in an amount of  
12 \$25 or less.

13 (2) No state officer or state employee may receive, accept, take,  
14 seek, or solicit, directly or indirectly, any thing of economic value  
15 as a gift, gratuity, or favor from a person if it could be reasonably  
16 expected that the gift, gratuity, or favor would influence the vote,  
17 action, or judgment of the officer or employee, or be considered as  
18 part of a reward for action or inaction.

19 (3) No state officer or state employee may accept gifts, other  
20 than those specified in subsections (~~((2) and (5))~~) (4) and (7) of  
21 this section, with an aggregate value in excess of (~~(fifty dollars)~~)  
22 \$100 from a single source in a calendar year or a single gift from  
23 multiple sources with a value in excess of (~~(fifty dollars)~~) \$100.  
24 For purposes of this section, "single source" means any person, as  
25 defined in RCW 42.52.010, whether acting directly or through any  
26 agent or other intermediary, and "single gift" includes any event,  
27 item, or group of items used in conjunction with each other or any  
28 trip including transportation, lodging, and attendant costs, not  
29 excluded from the definition of gift under (~~(RCW 42.52.010)~~)  
30 subsection (1)(c) of this section. The value of gifts given to an  
31 officer's or employee's family member or guest shall be attributed to  
32 the official or employee for the purpose of determining whether the  
33 limit has been exceeded, unless an independent business, family, or  
34 social relationship exists between the donor and the family member or  
35 guest.

36 (~~((2))~~) (4) Except as provided in subsection (~~((4))~~) (6) of this  
37 section, the following items are presumed not to influence under  
38 (~~(RCW 42.52.140)~~) subsection (3) of this section, and may be accepted  
39 without regard to the limit established by subsection (~~((1))~~) (3) of  
40 this section:

- 1 (a) Unsolicited flowers, plants, and floral arrangements;
- 2 (b) Unsolicited advertising or promotional items of nominal  
3 value, such as pens and note pads;
- 4 (c) Unsolicited tokens or awards of appreciation in the form of a  
5 plaque, trophy, desk item, wall memento, or similar item;
- 6 (d) Unsolicited items received by a state officer or state  
7 employee for the purpose of evaluation or review, if the officer or  
8 employee has no personal beneficial interest in the eventual use or  
9 acquisition of the item by the officer's or employee's agency;
- 10 (e) Informational material, publications, or subscriptions  
11 related to the recipient's performance of official duties;
- 12 (f) Food and beverages consumed at hosted receptions where  
13 attendance is related to the state officer's or state employee's  
14 official duties;
- 15 (g) Gifts, grants, conveyances, bequests, and devises of real or  
16 personal property, or both, in trust or otherwise accepted and  
17 solicited for deposit in the legislative international trade account  
18 created in RCW 43.15.050;
- 19 ~~((Gifts, grants, conveyances, bequests, and devises of real  
20 or personal property, or both, in trust or otherwise accepted and  
21 solicited for the purpose of promoting the expansion of tourism as  
22 provided for in RCW 43.330.090;~~
- 23 ~~(i))~~ Gifts, grants, conveyances, bequests, and devises of real  
24 or personal property, or both, solicited on behalf of a national or  
25 regional legislative association as defined in RCW 42.52.822(2), the  
26 2006 official conference of the national lieutenant governors'  
27 association, the annual conference of the national association of  
28 state treasurers, or a host committee, for the purpose of hosting an  
29 official conference under the circumstances specified in RCW  
30 42.52.820, section 2, chapter 5, Laws of 2006, RCW 42.52.821, or RCW  
31 42.52.822. Anything solicited or accepted may only be received by the  
32 national association or host committee and may not be commingled with  
33 any funds or accounts that are the property of any person;
- 34 ~~((j))~~ (i) Admission to, and the cost of food and beverages  
35 consumed at, events sponsored by or in conjunction with a civic,  
36 charitable, governmental, or community organization;
- 37 ~~((k))~~ (j) Unsolicited gifts from dignitaries from another state  
38 or a foreign country that are intended to be personal in nature;
- 39 ~~((and~~

1       ~~((1))~~    (k)    Gifts, grants, donations, sponsorships, or  
2 contributions from any agency or federal or local government agency  
3 or program or private source for the purposes of chapter 28B.156 RCW;  
4 and

5       (1) Unsolicited gifts received by legislative employees from a  
6 legislator.

7       ~~((3))~~   (5)    The presumption in subsection ~~((2))~~ (4) of this  
8 section is rebuttable and may be overcome based on the circumstances  
9 surrounding the giving and acceptance of the item.

10       ~~((4))~~   (6)    Notwithstanding subsections ~~((2) and (5))~~ (4) and  
11 (7) of this section, a state officer or state employee of a  
12 regulatory agency or of an agency that seeks to acquire goods or  
13 services who participates in those regulatory or contractual matters  
14 may receive, accept, take, or seek, directly or indirectly, only the  
15 following items from a person regulated by the agency or from a  
16 person who seeks to provide goods or services to the agency:

17       (a) Unsolicited advertising or promotional items of nominal  
18 value, such as pens and note pads;

19       (b) Unsolicited tokens or awards of appreciation in the form of a  
20 plaque, trophy, desk item, wall memento, or similar item;

21       (c) Unsolicited items received by a state officer or state  
22 employee for the purpose of evaluation or review, if the officer or  
23 employee has no personal ~~((beneficial))~~ interest in the eventual use  
24 or acquisition of the item by the officer's or employee's agency;

25       (d) Informational material, publications, or subscriptions  
26 related to the recipient's performance of official duties;

27       (e) Food and beverages consumed at hosted receptions where  
28 attendance is related to the state officer's or state employee's  
29 official duties;

30       (f) Admission to, and the cost of food and beverages consumed at,  
31 events sponsored by or in conjunction with a civic, charitable,  
32 governmental, or community organization; and

33       (g) Those items excluded from the definition of gift in ~~((RCW~~  
34 ~~42.52.010))~~ subsection (1)(c) of this section except:

35       (i) Payments by a governmental or nongovernmental entity of  
36 reasonable expenses incurred in connection with a speech,  
37 presentation, appearance, or trade mission made in an official  
38 capacity;

1 (ii) Payments for seminars and educational programs sponsored by  
2 a bona fide governmental or nonprofit professional, educational,  
3 trade, or charitable association or institution; and

4 (iii) Flowers, plants, and floral arrangements.

5 ~~((+5))~~ (7) A state officer or state employee may accept gifts in  
6 the form of food and beverage on infrequent occasions in the ordinary  
7 course of meals where attendance by the officer or employee is  
8 related to the performance of official duties. Gifts in the form of  
9 food and beverage that exceed ~~((fifty dollars))~~ \$100 on a single  
10 occasion shall be reported as provided in chapter 42.17A RCW.

11 (8)(a) Every five years, the ethics boards may adjust for  
12 inflation the aggregate value of gifts in subsection (3) of this  
13 section. The inflationary increase must be calculated by applying the  
14 rate of the increase in the inflationary adjustment index. The ethics  
15 boards are encouraged to coordinate their efforts when determining  
16 the adjustment amount and may seek guidance from the office of  
17 financial management to determine the rate of inflation during that  
18 time period. Any revisions to the aggregate value of gifts shall be  
19 adopted as rules in accordance with chapter 34.05 RCW.

20 (b) For the purposes of this subsection, "inflationary adjustment  
21 index" means the implicit price deflator averaged for each fiscal  
22 year, using the official current base rate, compiled by the bureau of  
23 economic analysis, United States department of commerce.

24 **Sec. 10.** RCW 42.52.150 and 2024 c 164 s 514 are each amended to  
25 read as follows:

26 (1)(a) Unless the context requires otherwise, the definition of  
27 "gift" in this subsection applies throughout this chapter.

28 (b) "Gift" means anything of economic value for which no  
29 consideration is given.

30 (c) "Gift" does not include the following:

31 (i) Items from family members or friends where it is clear beyond  
32 a reasonable doubt that the gift was not made as part of any design  
33 to gain or maintain influence in the agency of which the recipient is  
34 an officer or employee;

35 (ii) Items related to the outside business of the recipient that  
36 are customary and not related to the recipient's performance of  
37 official duties;

1 (iii) Items exchanged among officials and employees at a social  
2 event hosted or sponsored by a state officer or state employee for  
3 coworkers;

4 (iv) Payments by a governmental or nongovernmental entity of  
5 reasonable expenses incurred in connection with a speech,  
6 presentation, appearance, or trade mission made in an official  
7 capacity. As used in this subsection, "reasonable expenses" are  
8 limited to travel, lodging, and subsistence expenses incurred the day  
9 before through the day after the event;

10 (v) Items a state officer or state employee is authorized by law  
11 to accept;

12 (vi) Payment of enrollment and course fees and reasonable travel  
13 expenses attributable to attending seminars and educational programs  
14 sponsored by a bona fide governmental or nonprofit professional,  
15 educational, trade, or charitable association or institution. As used  
16 in this subsection, "reasonable expenses" are limited to travel,  
17 lodging, and subsistence expenses incurred the day before through the  
18 day after the event;

19 (vii) Items returned by the recipient to the donor within 30 days  
20 of receipt or donated to a charitable organization within 30 days of  
21 receipt;

22 (viii) Campaign contributions reported under chapter 42.17A RCW;

23 (ix) Discounts available to an individual as a member of an  
24 employee group, occupation, or similar broad-based group;

25 (x) Awards, prizes, scholarships, or other items provided in  
26 recognition of academic or scientific achievement; and

27 (xi) Gift cards received by legislative employees in an amount of  
28 \$25 or less.

29 (2) No state officer or state employee may receive, accept, take,  
30 seek, or solicit, directly or indirectly, any thing of economic value  
31 as a gift, gratuity, or favor from a person if it could be reasonably  
32 expected that the gift, gratuity, or favor would influence the vote,  
33 action, or judgment of the officer or employee, or be considered as  
34 part of a reward for action or inaction.

35 (3) No state officer or state employee may accept gifts, other  
36 than those specified in subsections (~~((2) and (5))~~) (4) and (7) of  
37 this section, with an aggregate value in excess of (~~(fifty dollars))~~  
38 \$100 from a single source in a calendar year or a single gift from  
39 multiple sources with a value in excess of (~~(fifty dollars))~~ \$100.  
40 For purposes of this section, "single source" means any person, as

1 defined in RCW 42.52.010, whether acting directly or through any  
2 agent or other intermediary, and "single gift" includes any event,  
3 item, or group of items used in conjunction with each other or any  
4 trip including transportation, lodging, and attendant costs, not  
5 excluded from the definition of gift under ~~((RCW 42.52.010))~~  
6 subsection (1)(c) of this section. The value of gifts given to an  
7 officer's or employee's family member or guest shall be attributed to  
8 the official or employee for the purpose of determining whether the  
9 limit has been exceeded, unless an independent business, family, or  
10 social relationship exists between the donor and the family member or  
11 guest.

12 ~~((+2))~~ (4) Except as provided in subsection ~~((+4))~~ (6) of this  
13 section, the following items are presumed not to influence under  
14 ~~((RCW 42.52.140))~~ subsection (3) of this section, and may be accepted  
15 without regard to the limit established by subsection ~~((+1))~~ (3) of  
16 this section:

17 (a) Unsolicited flowers, plants, and floral arrangements;

18 (b) Unsolicited advertising or promotional items of nominal  
19 value, such as pens and note pads;

20 (c) Unsolicited tokens or awards of appreciation in the form of a  
21 plaque, trophy, desk item, wall memento, or similar item;

22 (d) Unsolicited items received by a state officer or state  
23 employee for the purpose of evaluation or review, if the officer or  
24 employee has no personal beneficial interest in the eventual use or  
25 acquisition of the item by the officer's or employee's agency;

26 (e) Informational material, publications, or subscriptions  
27 related to the recipient's performance of official duties;

28 (f) Food and beverages consumed at hosted receptions where  
29 attendance is related to the state officer's or state employee's  
30 official duties;

31 (g) Gifts, grants, conveyances, bequests, and devises of real or  
32 personal property, or both, in trust or otherwise accepted and  
33 solicited for deposit in the legislative international trade account  
34 created in RCW 43.15.050;

35 ~~((Gifts, grants, conveyances, bequests, and devises of real  
36 or personal property, or both, in trust or otherwise accepted and  
37 solicited for the purpose of promoting the expansion of tourism as  
38 provided for in RCW 43.330.090;~~

39 ~~(+i))~~ Gifts, grants, conveyances, bequests, and devises of real  
40 or personal property, or both, solicited on behalf of a national or

1 regional legislative association as defined in RCW 42.52.822(2), the  
2 2006 official conference of the national lieutenant governors'  
3 association, the annual conference of the national association of  
4 state treasurers, or a host committee, for the purpose of hosting an  
5 official conference under the circumstances specified in RCW  
6 42.52.820, section 2, chapter 5, Laws of 2006, RCW 42.52.821, or RCW  
7 42.52.822. Anything solicited or accepted may only be received by the  
8 national association or host committee and may not be commingled with  
9 any funds or accounts that are the property of any person;

10 ~~((j))~~ (i) Admission to, and the cost of food and beverages  
11 consumed at, events sponsored by or in conjunction with a civic,  
12 charitable, governmental, or community organization;

13 ~~((k))~~ (j) Unsolicited gifts from dignitaries from another state  
14 or a foreign country that are intended to be personal in nature;  
15 ~~(and~~

16 ~~(l))~~ (k) Gifts, grants, donations, sponsorships, or  
17 contributions from any agency or federal or local government agency  
18 or program or private source for the purposes of chapter 28B.156 RCW;  
19 and

20 (l) Unsolicited gifts received by legislative employees from a  
21 legislator.

22 ~~((3))~~ (5) The presumption in subsection ~~((2))~~ (4) of this  
23 section is rebuttable and may be overcome based on the circumstances  
24 surrounding the giving and acceptance of the item.

25 ~~((4))~~ (6) Notwithstanding subsections ~~((2) and (5))~~ (4) and  
26 (7) of this section, a state officer or state employee of a  
27 regulatory agency or of an agency that seeks to acquire goods or  
28 services who participates in those regulatory or contractual matters  
29 may receive, accept, take, or seek, directly or indirectly, only the  
30 following items from a person regulated by the agency or from a  
31 person who seeks to provide goods or services to the agency:

32 (a) Unsolicited advertising or promotional items of nominal  
33 value, such as pens and note pads;

34 (b) Unsolicited tokens or awards of appreciation in the form of a  
35 plaque, trophy, desk item, wall memento, or similar item;

36 (c) Unsolicited items received by a state officer or state  
37 employee for the purpose of evaluation or review, if the officer or  
38 employee has no personal ~~(beneficial)~~ interest in the eventual use  
39 or acquisition of the item by the officer's or employee's agency;

1 (d) Informational material, publications, or subscriptions  
2 related to the recipient's performance of official duties;

3 (e) Food and beverages consumed at hosted receptions where  
4 attendance is related to the state officer's or state employee's  
5 official duties;

6 (f) Admission to, and the cost of food and beverages consumed at,  
7 events sponsored by or in conjunction with a civic, charitable,  
8 governmental, or community organization; and

9 (g) Those items excluded from the definition of gift in ((RCW  
10 ~~42.52.010~~)) subsection (1)(c) of this section except:

11 (i) Payments by a governmental or nongovernmental entity of  
12 reasonable expenses incurred in connection with a speech,  
13 presentation, appearance, or trade mission made in an official  
14 capacity;

15 (ii) Payments for seminars and educational programs sponsored by  
16 a bona fide governmental or nonprofit professional, educational,  
17 trade, or charitable association or institution; and

18 (iii) Flowers, plants, and floral arrangements.

19 ((~~5~~)) (7) A state officer or state employee may accept gifts in  
20 the form of food and beverage on infrequent occasions in the ordinary  
21 course of meals where attendance by the officer or employee is  
22 related to the performance of official duties. Gifts in the form of  
23 food and beverage that exceed ((~~fifty dollars~~)) \$100 on a single  
24 occasion shall be reported as provided in Title 29B RCW.

25 (8)(a) Every five years, the ethics boards may adjust for  
26 inflation the aggregate value of gifts in subsection (3) of this  
27 section. The inflationary increase must be calculated by applying the  
28 rate of the increase in the inflationary adjustment index. The ethics  
29 boards are encouraged to coordinate their efforts when determining  
30 the adjustment amount and may seek guidance from the office of  
31 financial management to determine the rate of inflation during that  
32 time period. Any revisions to the aggregate value of gifts shall be  
33 adopted as rules in accordance with chapter 34.05 RCW.

34 (b) For the purposes of this subsection, "inflationary adjustment  
35 index" means the implicit price deflator averaged for each fiscal  
36 year, using the official current base rate, compiled by the bureau of  
37 economic analysis, United States department of commerce.

38 **Sec. 11.** RCW 42.52.160 and 2024 c 333 s 21 are each amended to  
39 read as follows:

1 (1) No state officer or state employee may employ or use any  
2 person, money, or property under the officer's or employee's official  
3 control or direction, or in his or her official custody, for the  
4 private benefit or gain of the officer, employee, or another.

5 (2) This section does not prohibit the use of public resources to  
6 benefit others as part of a state officer's or state employee's  
7 official duties. It is not a violation of this section for a  
8 legislator or (~~(an appropriate legislative staff designee)~~) employees  
9 under the jurisdiction of the legislative ethics board to engage in  
10 activities listed under RCW (~~(42.52.070(2) or)~~) 42.52.822 or section  
11 12 of this act.

12 (3) This section does not prohibit de minimis use of state  
13 facilities to provide employees with information about (a) medical,  
14 surgical, and hospital care; (b) life insurance or accident and  
15 health disability insurance; or (c) individual retirement accounts,  
16 by any person, firm, or corporation administering such program as  
17 part of authorized payroll deductions pursuant to RCW 41.04.020.

18 (4) The appropriate ethics boards may adopt rules providing  
19 exceptions to this section for occasional use of the state officer or  
20 state employee, of de minimis cost and value, if the activity does  
21 not result in interference with the proper performance of (~~(public)~~)  
22 official duties.

23 (5) This section does not apply to activities conducted by  
24 legislative employees authorized under RCW 44.90.110.

25 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 12.** A new section is added to chapter 42.52  
26 RCW to read as follows:

27 (1) This section applies to legislators and employees under the  
28 jurisdiction of the legislative ethics board.

29 (2) Legislative nexus means activities by legislators and staff  
30 having a reasonably objective connection to the legislator's or  
31 staff's official duties or to the policy or programmatic prerogatives  
32 of the legislature, or the legislative institution. In cases where  
33 legislative nexus is required for the use of state resources,  
34 activities with a per se tangible legislative nexus also include the  
35 following:

36 (a) Communications directly pertaining to any legislative  
37 proposal which has been introduced in either chamber of the  
38 legislature; and

1 (b) Posting information to a legislator's official legislative  
2 website or social media account about:

3 (i) Emergencies;

4 (ii) Federal holidays, state holidays recognized under RCW  
5 1.16.050, religious holidays, and generally recognized days or months  
6 of note;

7 (iii) Information originally provided or published by other  
8 government entities which provide information about government  
9 resources; and

10 (iv) Achievements, honors, or awards of extraordinary distinction  
11 received by a constituent who has granted permission to post about  
12 the achievement, honor, or award.

13 **Sec. 13.** RCW 42.52.180 and 2022 c 37 s 3 are each amended to  
14 read as follows:

15 (1) No state officer or state employee may use or authorize the  
16 use of facilities of an agency, directly or indirectly, for the  
17 purpose of assisting a campaign for election of a person to an office  
18 or for the promotion of or opposition to a ballot proposition.  
19 Knowing acquiescence by a person with authority to direct, control,  
20 or influence the actions of the state officer or state employee using  
21 public resources in violation of this section constitutes a violation  
22 of this section. Facilities of an agency include, but are not limited  
23 to, use of stationery, postage, machines, and equipment, use of state  
24 employees of the agency during working hours, vehicles, office space,  
25 publications of the agency, and clientele lists of persons served by  
26 the agency.

27 (2) This section shall not apply to the following activities:

28 (a) Action taken at an open public meeting by members of an  
29 elected legislative body to express a collective decision, or to  
30 actually vote upon a motion, proposal, resolution, order, or  
31 ordinance, or to support or oppose a ballot proposition as long as  
32 (i) required notice of the meeting includes the title and number of  
33 the ballot proposition, and (ii) members of the legislative body or  
34 members of the public are afforded an approximately equal opportunity  
35 for the expression of an opposing view;

36 (b) A statement by an elected official in support of or in  
37 opposition to any ballot proposition at an open press conference or  
38 in response to a specific inquiry. For the purposes of this  
39 subsection, it is not a violation of this section for an elected

1 official to respond to an inquiry regarding a ballot proposition, to  
2 make incidental remarks concerning a ballot proposition in an  
3 official communication, or otherwise comment on a ballot proposition  
4 without an actual, measurable expenditure of public funds. The ethics  
5 boards shall adopt by rule a definition of measurable expenditure;

6 (c) (i) The maintenance of official legislative websites  
7 throughout the year, regardless of pending elections. The websites  
8 may contain any discretionary material which was also specifically  
9 prepared for the legislator in the course of his or her official  
10 duties as a legislator, including newsletters and press releases.

11 (ii) The official legislative websites of legislators seeking  
12 reelection or election to any office shall not be altered, other than  
13 during a special legislative session or to change office contact  
14 information, beginning on the first day of the declaration of  
15 candidacy filing period specified in RCW 29A.24.050 through the date  
16 of certification by the secretary of state of the general election of  
17 the election year. As used in this subsection, "legislator" means a  
18 legislator who is a "candidate," as defined in RCW 42.17A.005, for  
19 any public office. "Legislator" does not include a member of the  
20 legislature who has announced their retirement from elected public  
21 office and who does not file a declaration of candidacy by the end of  
22 the candidacy filing period specified in RCW 29A.24.050.

23 (iii) The website shall not be used for campaign purposes;

24 (d) Activities that are part of the normal and regular conduct of  
25 the office or agency (~~(, which include but are not limited to:~~

26 ~~(i) Communications by a legislator or appropriate legislative~~  
27 ~~staff designee directly pertaining to any legislative proposal which~~  
28 ~~has been introduced in either chamber of the legislature; and~~

29 ~~(ii) Posting, by a legislator or appropriate legislative staff~~  
30 ~~designee, information to a legislator's official legislative website~~  
31 ~~including an official legislative social media account, about:~~

32 ~~(A) Emergencies;~~

33 ~~(B) Federal holidays, state and legislatively recognized holidays~~  
34 ~~established under RCW 1.16.050, and religious holidays;~~

35 ~~(C) Information originally provided or published by other~~  
36 ~~government entities which provide information about government~~  
37 ~~resources; and~~

38 ~~(D) Achievements, honors, or awards of extraordinary~~  
39 ~~distinction)); and~~

1 (e) De minimis use of public facilities by statewide elected  
2 officials and legislators incidental to the preparation or delivery  
3 of permissible communications, including written and verbal  
4 communications initiated by them of their views on ballot  
5 propositions that foreseeably may affect a matter that falls within  
6 their constitutional or statutory responsibilities.

7 (3) As to state officers and employees, this section operates to  
8 the exclusion of RCW 42.17A.555.

9 (4) As used in this section, "official legislative website"  
10 includes, but is not limited to, a legislator's official legislative  
11 social media accounts.

12 **Sec. 14.** RCW 42.52.180 and 2024 c 164 s 515 are each amended to  
13 read as follows:

14 (1) No state officer or state employee may use or authorize the  
15 use of facilities of an agency, directly or indirectly, for the  
16 purpose of assisting a campaign for election of a person to an office  
17 or for the promotion of or opposition to a ballot proposition.  
18 Knowing acquiescence by a person with authority to direct, control,  
19 or influence the actions of the state officer or state employee using  
20 public resources in violation of this section constitutes a violation  
21 of this section. Facilities of an agency include, but are not limited  
22 to, use of stationery, postage, machines, and equipment, use of state  
23 employees of the agency during working hours, vehicles, office space,  
24 publications of the agency, and clientele lists of persons served by  
25 the agency.

26 (2) This section shall not apply to the following activities:

27 (a) Action taken at an open public meeting by members of an  
28 elected legislative body to express a collective decision, or to  
29 actually vote upon a motion, proposal, resolution, order, or  
30 ordinance, or to support or oppose a ballot proposition as long as  
31 (i) required notice of the meeting includes the title and number of  
32 the ballot proposition, and (ii) members of the legislative body or  
33 members of the public are afforded an approximately equal opportunity  
34 for the expression of an opposing view;

35 (b) A statement by an elected official in support of or in  
36 opposition to any ballot proposition at an open press conference or  
37 in response to a specific inquiry. For the purposes of this  
38 subsection, it is not a violation of this section for an elected  
39 official to respond to an inquiry regarding a ballot proposition, to

1 make incidental remarks concerning a ballot proposition in an  
2 official communication, or otherwise comment on a ballot proposition  
3 without an actual, measurable expenditure of public funds. The ethics  
4 boards shall adopt by rule a definition of measurable expenditure;

5 (c) (i) The maintenance of official legislative websites  
6 throughout the year, regardless of pending elections. The websites  
7 may contain any discretionary material which was also specifically  
8 prepared for the legislator in the course of his or her official  
9 duties as a legislator, including newsletters and press releases.

10 (ii) The official legislative websites of legislators seeking  
11 reelection or election to any office shall not be altered, other than  
12 during a special legislative session or to change office contact  
13 information, beginning on the first day of the declaration of  
14 candidacy filing period specified in RCW 29A.24.050 through the date  
15 of certification by the secretary of state of the general election of  
16 the election year. As used in this subsection, "legislator" means a  
17 legislator who is a "candidate," as defined in RCW 29B.10.090, for  
18 any public office. "Legislator" does not include a member of the  
19 legislature who has announced their retirement from elected public  
20 office and who does not file a declaration of candidacy by the end of  
21 the candidacy filing period specified in RCW 29A.24.050.

22 (iii) The website shall not be used for campaign purposes;

23 (d) Activities that are part of the normal and regular conduct of  
24 the office or agency (~~(, which include but are not limited to:~~

25 ~~(i) Communications by a legislator or appropriate legislative~~  
26 ~~staff designee directly pertaining to any legislative proposal which~~  
27 ~~has been introduced in either chamber of the legislature; and~~

28 ~~(ii) Posting, by a legislator or appropriate legislative staff~~  
29 ~~designee, information to a legislator's official legislative website~~  
30 ~~including an official legislative social media account, about:~~

31 ~~(A) Emergencies;~~

32 ~~(B) Federal holidays, state and legislatively recognized holidays~~  
33 ~~established under RCW 1.16.050, and religious holidays;~~

34 ~~(C) Information originally provided or published by other~~  
35 ~~government entities which provide information about government~~  
36 ~~resources; and~~

37 ~~(D) Achievements, honors, or awards of extraordinary~~  
38 ~~distinction)); and~~

39 (e) De minimis use of public facilities by statewide elected  
40 officials and legislators incidental to the preparation or delivery

1 of permissible communications, including written and verbal  
2 communications initiated by them of their views on ballot  
3 propositions that foreseeably may affect a matter that falls within  
4 their constitutional or statutory responsibilities.

5 (3) As to state officers and employees, this section operates to  
6 the exclusion of RCW 29B.45.010.

7 (4) As used in this section, "official legislative website"  
8 includes, but is not limited to, a legislator's official legislative  
9 social media accounts.

10 **Sec. 15.** RCW 42.52.220 and 2022 c 173 s 3 are each amended to  
11 read as follows:

12 (1) Consistent with the state policy to encourage basic and  
13 applied scientific research by the state's research universities as  
14 stated in RCW 28B.140.005, and consistent with the expectations of  
15 university faculty to produce, publish, and disseminate research and  
16 scholarship, each university and the state board for community and  
17 technical colleges may develop, adopt, and implement one or more  
18 written administrative processes that shall apply in place of the  
19 obligations imposed on institutions of higher education, faculty, and  
20 university research employees under RCW 42.52.030, 42.52.040,  
21 42.52.080, 42.52.110, 42.52.120, 42.52.130, (~~(42.52.140,)~~) 42.52.150,  
22 and 42.52.160. The institutions of higher education shall coordinate  
23 on the development of administrative processes to ensure the  
24 processes are comparable. Each policy shall apply upon approval by  
25 boards of trustees or regents for the state universities, regional  
26 universities, and The Evergreen State College, or by the state board  
27 for community and technical colleges. Each board of trustees or  
28 regents and the state board for community and technical colleges must  
29 provide the executive ethics board with a copy of each institution's  
30 policy upon approval. A faculty member or university research  
31 employee in compliance with the processes authorized in this section  
32 shall be deemed to be in compliance with RCW 42.52.030, 42.52.040,  
33 42.52.080, 42.52.110, 42.52.120, 42.52.130, (~~(42.52.140,)~~) 42.52.150,  
34 and 42.52.160.

35 (2) The executive ethics board shall enforce activity subject to  
36 the written approval processes under this section, as provided in RCW  
37 42.52.360.

1       **Sec. 16.** RCW 42.52.320 and 1994 c 154 s 202 are each amended to  
2 read as follows:

3       (1) The legislative ethics board shall enforce this chapter and  
4 rules adopted under it with respect to members and employees of the  
5 legislature.

6       (2) The legislative ethics board shall:

7       (a) Develop educational materials and training with regard to  
8 legislative ethics for legislators and legislative employees;

9       (b) Issue advisory opinions;

10       (c) Adopt rules or policies governing the conduct of business by  
11 the board, and adopt rules defining working hours for purposes of RCW  
12 42.52.180 and where otherwise authorized under chapter 154, Laws of  
13 1994;

14       (d) Investigate, hear, and determine complaints by any person or  
15 on its own motion;

16       (e) Impose sanctions including reprimands and monetary penalties;

17       (f) Recommend suspension or removal to the appropriate  
18 legislative entity, or recommend prosecution to the appropriate  
19 authority; and

20       (g) Establish criteria regarding the levels of civil penalties  
21 appropriate for different types of violations of this chapter and  
22 rules adopted under it.

23       (3) The board may:

24       (a) Issue subpoenas for the attendance and testimony of witnesses  
25 and the production of documentary evidence relating to any matter  
26 under examination by the board or involved in any hearing;

27       (b) Administer oaths and affirmations;

28       (c) Examine witnesses; and

29       (d) Receive evidence.

30       (~~(4) Subject to RCW 42.52.540, the board has jurisdiction over~~  
31 ~~any alleged violation that occurred before January 1, 1995, and that~~  
32 ~~was within the jurisdiction of any of the boards established under~~  
33 ~~chapter 44.60 RCW. The board's jurisdiction with respect to any such~~  
34 ~~alleged violation shall be based on the statutes and rules in effect~~  
35 ~~at [the] time of the violation.))~~

36       **Sec. 17.** RCW 42.52.480 and 1994 c 154 s 218 are each amended to  
37 read as follows:

38       (1) Except as otherwise provided by law, an ethics board may  
39 order payment of the following amounts if it finds a violation of

1 this chapter or rules adopted under it after a hearing under RCW  
2 42.52.370 or other applicable law:

3 (a) Any damages sustained by the state that are caused by the  
4 conduct constituting the violation;

5 (b) From each such person, a civil penalty of up to five thousand  
6 dollars per violation or three times the economic value of any thing  
7 received or sought in violation of this chapter or rules adopted  
8 under it, whichever is greater; and

9 (c) Costs, including reasonable investigative (~~costs, which~~  
10 ~~shall be included as part of the limit under (b) of this subsection.~~  
11 ~~The costs may not exceed the penalty imposed. The payment owed on the~~  
12 ~~penalty shall be reduced by the amount of the costs paid)) expenses.~~

13 (2) Damages under this section may be enforced in the same manner  
14 as a judgment in a civil case.

15 **Sec. 18.** RCW 42.52.490 and 1994 c 154 s 219 are each amended to  
16 read as follows:

17 (1) Upon a written determination by the attorney general that the  
18 action of an ethics board was clearly erroneous or if requested by an  
19 ethics board, the attorney general may bring a civil action in the  
20 superior court of the county in which the violation is alleged to  
21 have occurred against a state officer, state employee, former state  
22 officer, former state employee, or other person who has violated or  
23 knowingly assisted another person in violating any of the provisions  
24 of this chapter or the rules adopted under it. In such action the  
25 attorney general may recover the following amounts on behalf of the  
26 state of Washington:

27 (a) Any damages sustained by the state that are caused by the  
28 conduct constituting the violation;

29 (b) From each such person, a civil penalty of up to five thousand  
30 dollars per violation or three times the economic value of any thing  
31 received or sought in violation of this chapter or the rules adopted  
32 under it, whichever is greater; and

33 (c) Costs, including reasonable investigative (~~costs, which~~  
34 ~~shall be included as part of the limit under (b) of this subsection.~~  
35 ~~The costs may not exceed the penalty imposed. The payment owed on the~~  
36 ~~penalty shall be reduced by the amount of the costs paid)) expenses.~~

37 (2) In any civil action brought by the attorney general upon the  
38 basis that the attorney general has determined that the board's  
39 action was clearly erroneous, the court shall not proceed with the

1 action unless the attorney general has first shown, and the court has  
2 found, that the action of the board was clearly erroneous.

3 **Sec. 19.** RCW 42.52.805 and 2007 c 452 s 2 are each amended to  
4 read as follows:

5 (1) When soliciting gifts, grants, or donations solely to support  
6 the charitable activities of executive branch state employees  
7 conducted pursuant to RCW 9.46.0209, the executive branch state  
8 officers and executive branch state employees are presumed not to be  
9 in violation of the solicitation and receipt of gift provisions in  
10 RCW (~~(42.52.140)~~) 42.52.150(3). However, the gifts, grants, or  
11 donations must only be solicited from state employees or businesses  
12 and organizations that have no business dealings with the soliciting  
13 employee's agency. For the purposes of this subsection, "business  
14 dealings" includes being subject to regulation by the agency, having  
15 a contractual relationship with the agency, and purchasing goods or  
16 services from the agency.

17 (2) For purposes of this section, activities are deemed to be  
18 charitable if the activities are devoted to the purposes authorized  
19 under RCW 9.46.0209 for charitable and nonprofit organizations listed  
20 in that section, or are in support of the activities of those  
21 charitable or nonprofit organizations.

22 **Sec. 20.** RCW 42.52.810 and 2005 c 274 s 293 are each amended to  
23 read as follows:

24 (1) When soliciting charitable gifts, grants, or donations solely  
25 for the legislative international trade account created in RCW  
26 (~~(44.04.270)~~) 43.15.050, the president of the senate is presumed not  
27 to be in violation of the solicitation and receipt of gift provisions  
28 in RCW (~~(42.52.140)~~) 42.52.150(3).

29 (2) When soliciting charitable gifts, grants, or donations solely  
30 for the legislative international trade account created in RCW  
31 (~~(44.04.270)~~) 43.15.050, state officers and state employees are  
32 presumed not to be in violation of the solicitation and receipt of  
33 gift provisions in RCW (~~(42.52.140)~~) 42.52.150(3).

34 (3) An annual report of the legislative international trade  
35 account activities, including a list of receipts and expenditures,  
36 shall be published by the president of the senate and submitted to  
37 the house of representatives and the senate and be a public record  
38 for the purposes of RCW 42.56.070.

1       **Sec. 21.** RCW 42.17A.005 and 2022 c 71 s 14 are each amended to  
2 read as follows:

3       The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter  
4 unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

5       (1) "Actual malice" means to act with knowledge of falsity or  
6 with reckless disregard as to truth or falsity.

7       (2) "Agency" includes all state agencies and all local agencies.  
8 "State agency" includes every state office, department, division,  
9 bureau, board, commission, or other state agency. "Local agency"  
10 includes every county, city, town, municipal corporation, quasi-  
11 municipal corporation, or special purpose district, or any office,  
12 department, division, bureau, board, commission, or agency thereof,  
13 or other local public agency. "Agency" does not include a  
14 comprehensive cancer center participating in a collaborative  
15 arrangement as defined in RCW 28B.10.930 that is operated in  
16 conformance with RCW 28B.10.930.

17       (3) "Authorized committee" means the political committee  
18 authorized by a candidate, or by the public official against whom  
19 recall charges have been filed, to accept contributions or make  
20 expenditures on behalf of the candidate or public official.

21       (4) "Ballot proposition" means any "measure" as defined by RCW  
22 29A.04.091, or any initiative, recall, or referendum proposition  
23 proposed to be submitted to the voters of the state or any municipal  
24 corporation, political subdivision, or other voting constituency from  
25 and after the time when the proposition has been initially filed with  
26 the appropriate election officer of that constituency before its  
27 circulation for signatures.

28       (5) "Benefit" means a commercial, proprietary, financial,  
29 economic, or monetary advantage, or the avoidance of a commercial,  
30 proprietary, financial, economic, or monetary disadvantage.

31       (6) "Bona fide political party" means:

32       (a) An organization that has been recognized as a minor political  
33 party by the secretary of state;

34       (b) The governing body of the state organization of a major  
35 political party, as defined in RCW 29A.04.086, that is the body  
36 authorized by the charter or bylaws of the party to exercise  
37 authority on behalf of the state party; or

38       (c) The county central committee or legislative district  
39 committee of a major political party. There may be only one

1 legislative district committee for each party in each legislative  
2 district.

3 (7) "Books of account" means:

4 (a) In the case of a campaign or political committee, a ledger or  
5 similar listing of contributions, expenditures, and debts, such as a  
6 campaign or committee is required to file regularly with the  
7 commission, current as of the most recent business day; or

8 (b) In the case of a commercial advertiser, details of political  
9 advertising or electioneering communications provided by the  
10 advertiser, including the names and addresses of persons from whom it  
11 accepted political advertising or electioneering communications, the  
12 exact nature and extent of the services rendered and the total cost  
13 and the manner of payment for the services.

14 (8) "Candidate" means any individual who seeks nomination for  
15 election or election to public office. An individual seeks nomination  
16 or election when the individual first:

17 (a) Receives contributions or makes expenditures or reserves  
18 space or facilities with intent to promote the individual's candidacy  
19 for office;

20 (b) Announces publicly or files for office;

21 (c) Purchases commercial advertising space or broadcast time to  
22 promote the individual's candidacy; or

23 (d) Gives consent to another person to take on behalf of the  
24 individual any of the actions in (a) or (c) of this subsection.

25 (9) "Caucus political committee" means a political committee  
26 organized and maintained by the members of a major political party in  
27 the state senate or state house of representatives.

28 (10) "Commercial advertiser" means any person that sells the  
29 service of communicating messages or producing material for broadcast  
30 or distribution to the general public or segments of the general  
31 public whether through brochures, fliers, newspapers, magazines,  
32 television, radio, billboards, direct mail advertising, printing,  
33 paid internet or digital communications, or any other means of mass  
34 communications used for the purpose of appealing, directly or  
35 indirectly, for votes or for financial or other support in any  
36 election campaign.

37 (11) "Commission" means the agency established under RCW  
38 42.17A.100.

1 (12) "Committee" unless the context indicates otherwise, includes  
2 a political committee such as a candidate, ballot proposition,  
3 recall, political, or continuing political committee.

4 (13) "Compensation" unless the context requires a narrower  
5 meaning, includes payment in any form for real or personal property  
6 or services of any kind. For the purpose of compliance with RCW  
7 42.17A.710, "compensation" does not include per diem allowances or  
8 other payments made by a governmental entity to reimburse a public  
9 official for expenses incurred while the official is engaged in the  
10 official business of the governmental entity.

11 (14) "Continuing political committee" means a political committee  
12 that is an organization of continuing existence not limited to  
13 participation in any particular election campaign or election cycle.

14 (15)(a) "Contribution" includes:

15 (i) A loan, gift, deposit, subscription, forgiveness of  
16 indebtedness, donation, advance, pledge, payment, transfer of funds,  
17 or anything of value, including personal and professional services  
18 for less than full consideration;

19 (ii) An expenditure made by a person in cooperation,  
20 consultation, or concert with, or at the request or suggestion of, a  
21 candidate, a political or incidental committee, the person or persons  
22 named on the candidate's or committee's registration form who direct  
23 expenditures on behalf of the candidate or committee, or their  
24 agents;

25 (iii) The financing by a person of the dissemination,  
26 distribution, or republication, in whole or in part, of broadcast,  
27 written, graphic, digital, or other form of political advertising or  
28 electioneering communication prepared by a candidate, a political or  
29 incidental committee, or its authorized agent;

30 (iv) Sums paid for tickets to fund-raising events such as dinners  
31 and parties, except for the actual cost of the consumables furnished  
32 at the event.

33 (b) "Contribution" does not include:

34 (i) Accrued interest on money deposited in a political or  
35 incidental committee's account;

36 (ii) Ordinary home hospitality;

37 (iii) A contribution received by a candidate or political or  
38 incidental committee that is returned to the contributor within ten  
39 business days of the date on which it is received by the candidate or  
40 political or incidental committee;

1 (iv) A news item, feature, commentary, or editorial in a  
2 regularly scheduled news medium that is of interest to the public,  
3 that is in a news medium controlled by a person whose business is  
4 that news medium, and that is not controlled by a candidate or a  
5 political or incidental committee;

6 (v) An internal political communication primarily limited to the  
7 members of or contributors to a political party organization or  
8 political or incidental committee, or to the officers, management  
9 staff, or stockholders of a corporation or similar enterprise, or to  
10 the members of a labor organization or other membership organization;

11 (vi) The rendering of personal services of the sort commonly  
12 performed by volunteer campaign workers, or incidental expenses  
13 personally incurred by volunteer campaign workers not in excess of  
14 fifty dollars personally paid for by the worker. "Volunteer  
15 services," for the purposes of this subsection, means services or  
16 labor for which the individual is not compensated by any person;

17 (vii) Messages in the form of reader boards, banners, or yard or  
18 window signs displayed on a person's own property or property  
19 occupied by a person. However, a facility used for such political  
20 advertising for which a rental charge is normally made must be  
21 reported as an in-kind contribution and counts toward any applicable  
22 contribution limit of the person providing the facility;

23 (viii) Legal or accounting services rendered to or on behalf of:

24 (A) A political party or caucus political committee if the person  
25 paying for the services is the regular employer of the person  
26 rendering such services; or

27 (B) A candidate or an authorized committee if the person paying  
28 for the services is the regular employer of the individual rendering  
29 the services and if the services are solely for the purpose of  
30 ensuring compliance with state election or public disclosure laws; or

31 (ix) The performance of ministerial functions by a person on  
32 behalf of two or more candidates or political or incidental  
33 committees either as volunteer services defined in (b)(vi) of this  
34 subsection or for payment by the candidate or political or incidental  
35 committee for whom the services are performed as long as:

36 (A) The person performs solely ministerial functions;

37 (B) A person who is paid by two or more candidates or political  
38 or incidental committees is identified by the candidates and  
39 political committees on whose behalf services are performed as part

1 of their respective statements of organization under RCW 42.17A.205;  
2 and

3 (C) The person does not disclose, except as required by law, any  
4 information regarding a candidate's or committee's plans, projects,  
5 activities, or needs, or regarding a candidate's or committee's  
6 contributions or expenditures that is not already publicly available  
7 from campaign reports filed with the commission, or otherwise engage  
8 in activity that constitutes a contribution under (a)(ii) of this  
9 subsection.

10 A person who performs ministerial functions under this subsection  
11 (15)(b)(ix) is not considered an agent of the candidate or committee  
12 as long as the person has no authority to authorize expenditures or  
13 make decisions on behalf of the candidate or committee.

14 (c) Contributions other than money or its equivalent are deemed  
15 to have a monetary value equivalent to the fair market value of the  
16 contribution. Services or property or rights furnished at less than  
17 their fair market value for the purpose of assisting any candidate or  
18 political committee are deemed a contribution. Such a contribution  
19 must be reported as an in-kind contribution at its fair market value  
20 and counts towards any applicable contribution limit of the provider.

21 (16) "Depository" means a bank, mutual savings bank, savings and  
22 loan association, or credit union doing business in this state.

23 (17) "Elected official" means any person elected at a general or  
24 special election to any public office, and any person appointed to  
25 fill a vacancy in any such office.

26 (18) "Election" includes any primary, general, or special  
27 election for public office and any election in which a ballot  
28 proposition is submitted to the voters. An election in which the  
29 qualifications for voting include other than those requirements set  
30 forth in Article VI, section 1 (Amendment 63) of the Constitution of  
31 the state of Washington shall not be considered an election for  
32 purposes of this chapter.

33 (19) "Election campaign" means any campaign in support of or in  
34 opposition to a candidate for election to public office and any  
35 campaign in support of, or in opposition to, a ballot proposition.

36 (20) "Election cycle" means the period beginning on the first day  
37 of January after the date of the last previous general election for  
38 the office that the candidate seeks and ending on December 31st after  
39 the next election for the office. In the case of a special election  
40 to fill a vacancy in an office, "election cycle" means the period

1 beginning on the day the vacancy occurs and ending on December 31st  
2 after the special election.

3 (21)(a) "Electioneering communication" means any broadcast,  
4 cable, or satellite television, radio transmission, digital  
5 communication, United States postal service mailing, billboard,  
6 newspaper, or periodical that:

7 (i) Clearly identifies a candidate for a state, local, or  
8 judicial office either by specifically naming the candidate, or  
9 identifying the candidate without using the candidate's name;

10 (ii) Is broadcast, transmitted electronically or by other means,  
11 mailed, erected, distributed, or otherwise published within sixty  
12 days before any election for that office in the jurisdiction in which  
13 the candidate is seeking election; and

14 (iii) Either alone, or in combination with one or more  
15 communications identifying the candidate by the same sponsor during  
16 the sixty days before an election, has a fair market value or cost of  
17 one thousand dollars or more.

18 (b) "Electioneering communication" does not include:

19 (i) Usual and customary advertising of a business owned by a  
20 candidate, even if the candidate is mentioned in the advertising when  
21 the candidate has been regularly mentioned in that advertising  
22 appearing at least twelve months preceding the candidate becoming a  
23 candidate;

24 (ii) Advertising for candidate debates or forums when the  
25 advertising is paid for by or on behalf of the debate or forum  
26 sponsor, so long as two or more candidates for the same position have  
27 been invited to participate in the debate or forum;

28 (iii) A news item, feature, commentary, or editorial in a  
29 regularly scheduled news medium that is:

30 (A) Of interest to the public;

31 (B) In a news medium controlled by a person whose business is  
32 that news medium; and

33 (C) Not a medium controlled by a candidate or a political or  
34 incidental committee;

35 (iv) Slate cards and sample ballots;

36 (v) Advertising for books, films, dissertations, or similar works  
37 (A) written by a candidate when the candidate entered into a contract  
38 for such publications or media at least twelve months before becoming  
39 a candidate, or (B) written about a candidate;

40 (vi) Public service announcements;

1 (vii) An internal political communication primarily limited to  
2 the members of or contributors to a political party organization or  
3 political or incidental committee, or to the officers, management  
4 staff, or stockholders of a corporation or similar enterprise, or to  
5 the members of a labor organization or other membership organization;

6 (viii) An expenditure by or contribution to the authorized  
7 committee of a candidate for state, local, or judicial office; or

8 (ix) Any other communication exempted by the commission through  
9 rule consistent with the intent of this chapter.

10 (22) "Expenditure" includes a payment, contribution,  
11 subscription, distribution, loan, advance, deposit, or gift of money  
12 or anything of value, and includes a contract, promise, or agreement,  
13 whether or not legally enforceable, to make an expenditure.  
14 "Expenditure" also includes a promise to pay, a payment, or a  
15 transfer of anything of value in exchange for goods, services,  
16 property, facilities, or anything of value for the purpose of  
17 assisting, benefiting, or honoring any public official or candidate,  
18 or assisting in furthering or opposing any election campaign. For the  
19 purposes of this chapter, agreements to make expenditures, contracts,  
20 and promises to pay may be reported as estimated obligations until  
21 actual payment is made. "Expenditure" shall not include the partial  
22 or complete repayment by a candidate or political or incidental  
23 committee of the principal of a loan, the receipt of which loan has  
24 been properly reported.

25 (23) "Final report" means the report described as a final report  
26 in RCW 42.17A.235(11) (a).

27 (24) "Foreign national" means:

28 (a) An individual who is not a citizen of the United States and  
29 is not lawfully admitted for permanent residence;

30 (b) A government, or subdivision, of a foreign country;

31 (c) A foreign political party; and

32 (d) Any entity, such as a partnership, association, corporation,  
33 organization, or other combination of persons, that is organized  
34 under the laws of or has its principal place of business in a foreign  
35 country.

36 (25) "General election" for the purposes of RCW 42.17A.405 means  
37 the election that results in the election of a person to a state or  
38 local office. It does not include a primary.

39 (26) "Gift" has the definition in RCW (~~42.52.010~~) 42.52.150.

1 (27) "Immediate family" includes the spouse or domestic partner,  
2 dependent children, and other dependent relatives, if living in the  
3 household. For the purposes of the definition of "intermediary" in  
4 this section, "immediate family" means an individual's spouse or  
5 domestic partner, and child, stepchild, grandchild, parent,  
6 stepparent, grandparent, brother, half brother, sister, or half  
7 sister of the individual and the spouse or the domestic partner of  
8 any such person and a child, stepchild, grandchild, parent,  
9 stepparent, grandparent, brother, half brother, sister, or half  
10 sister of the individual's spouse or domestic partner and the spouse  
11 or the domestic partner of any such person.

12 (28) "Incidental committee" means any nonprofit organization not  
13 otherwise defined as a political committee but that may incidentally  
14 make a contribution or an expenditure in excess of the reporting  
15 thresholds in RCW 42.17A.235, directly or through a political  
16 committee. Any nonprofit organization is not an incidental committee  
17 if it is only remitting payments through the nonprofit organization  
18 in an aggregated form and the nonprofit organization is not required  
19 to report those payments in accordance with this chapter.

20 (29) "Incumbent" means a person who is in present possession of  
21 an elected office.

22 (30)(a) "Independent expenditure" means an expenditure that has  
23 each of the following elements:

24 (i) It is made in support of or in opposition to a candidate for  
25 office by a person who is not:

26 (A) A candidate for that office;

27 (B) An authorized committee of that candidate for that office;

28 and

29 (C) A person who has received the candidate's encouragement or  
30 approval to make the expenditure, if the expenditure pays in whole or  
31 in part for political advertising supporting that candidate or  
32 promoting the defeat of any other candidate or candidates for that  
33 office;

34 (ii) It is made in support of or in opposition to a candidate for  
35 office by a person with whom the candidate has not collaborated for  
36 the purpose of making the expenditure, if the expenditure pays in  
37 whole or in part for political advertising supporting that candidate  
38 or promoting the defeat of any other candidate or candidates for that  
39 office;

1 (iii) The expenditure pays in whole or in part for political  
2 advertising that either specifically names the candidate supported or  
3 opposed, or clearly and beyond any doubt identifies the candidate  
4 without using the candidate's name; and

5 (iv) The expenditure, alone or in conjunction with another  
6 expenditure or other expenditures of the same person in support of or  
7 opposition to that candidate, has a value of one thousand dollars or  
8 more. A series of expenditures, each of which is under one thousand  
9 dollars, constitutes one independent expenditure if their cumulative  
10 value is one thousand dollars or more.

11 (b) "Independent expenditure" does not include: Ordinary home  
12 hospitality; communications with journalists or editorial staff  
13 designed to elicit a news item, feature, commentary, or editorial in  
14 a regularly scheduled news medium that is of primary interest to the  
15 general public, controlled by a person whose business is that news  
16 medium, and not controlled by a candidate or a political committee;  
17 participation in the creation of a publicly funded voters' pamphlet  
18 statement in written or video form; an internal political  
19 communication primarily limited to contributors to a political party  
20 organization or political action committee, the officers, management  
21 staff, and stockholders of a corporation or similar enterprise, or  
22 the members of a labor organization or other membership organization;  
23 or the rendering of personal services of the sort commonly performed  
24 by volunteer campaign workers or incidental expenses personally  
25 incurred by volunteer campaign workers not in excess of two hundred  
26 fifty dollars personally paid for by the worker.

27 (31)(a) "Intermediary" means an individual who transmits a  
28 contribution to a candidate or committee from another person unless  
29 the contribution is from the individual's employer, immediate family,  
30 or an association to which the individual belongs.

31 (b) A treasurer or a candidate is not an intermediary for  
32 purposes of the committee that the treasurer or candidate serves.

33 (c) A professional fund-raiser is not an intermediary if the  
34 fund-raiser is compensated for fund-raising services at the usual and  
35 customary rate.

36 (d) A volunteer hosting a fund-raising event at the individual's  
37 home is not an intermediary for purposes of that event.

38 (32) "Legislation" means bills, resolutions, motions, amendments,  
39 nominations, and other matters pending or proposed in either house of  
40 the state legislature, and includes any other matter that may be the

1 subject of action by either house or any committee of the legislature  
2 and all bills and resolutions that, having passed both houses, are  
3 pending approval by the governor.

4 (33) "Legislative office" means the office of a member of the  
5 state house of representatives or the office of a member of the state  
6 senate.

7 (34) "Lobby" and "lobbying" each mean attempting to influence the  
8 passage or defeat of any legislation by the legislature of the state  
9 of Washington, or the adoption or rejection of any rule, standard,  
10 rate, or other legislative enactment of any state agency under the  
11 state administrative procedure act, chapter 34.05 RCW. Neither  
12 "lobby" nor "lobbying" includes an association's or other  
13 organization's act of communicating with the members of that  
14 association or organization.

15 (35) "Lobbyist" includes any person who lobbies either on the  
16 person's own or another's behalf.

17 (36) "Lobbyist's employer" means the person or persons by whom a  
18 lobbyist is employed and all persons by whom the lobbyist is  
19 compensated for acting as a lobbyist.

20 (37) "Ministerial functions" means an act or duty carried out as  
21 part of the duties of an administrative office without exercise of  
22 personal judgment or discretion.

23 (38) "Participate" means that, with respect to a particular  
24 election, an entity:

25 (a) Makes either a monetary or in-kind contribution to a  
26 candidate;

27 (b) Makes an independent expenditure or electioneering  
28 communication in support of or opposition to a candidate;

29 (c) Endorses a candidate before contributions are made by a  
30 subsidiary corporation or local unit with respect to that candidate  
31 or that candidate's opponent;

32 (d) Makes a recommendation regarding whether a candidate should  
33 be supported or opposed before a contribution is made by a subsidiary  
34 corporation or local unit with respect to that candidate or that  
35 candidate's opponent; or

36 (e) Directly or indirectly collaborates or consults with a  
37 subsidiary corporation or local unit on matters relating to the  
38 support of or opposition to a candidate, including, but not limited  
39 to, the amount of a contribution, when a contribution should be  
40 given, and what assistance, services or independent expenditures, or

1 electioneering communications, if any, will be made or should be made  
2 in support of or opposition to a candidate.

3 (39) "Person" includes an individual, partnership, joint venture,  
4 public or private corporation, association, federal, state, or local  
5 governmental entity or agency however constituted, candidate,  
6 committee, political committee, political party, executive committee  
7 thereof, or any other organization or group of persons, however  
8 organized.

9 (40) "Political advertising" includes any advertising displays,  
10 newspaper ads, billboards, signs, brochures, articles, tabloids,  
11 flyers, letters, radio or television presentations, digital  
12 communication, or other means of mass communication, used for the  
13 purpose of appealing, directly or indirectly, for votes or for  
14 financial or other support or opposition in any election campaign.

15 (41) "Political committee" means any person (except a candidate  
16 or an individual dealing with the candidate's or individual's own  
17 funds or property) having the expectation of receiving contributions  
18 or making expenditures in support of, or opposition to, any candidate  
19 or any ballot proposition.

20 (42) "Primary" for the purposes of RCW 42.17A.405 means the  
21 procedure for nominating a candidate to state or local office under  
22 chapter 29A.52 RCW or any other primary for an election that uses, in  
23 large measure, the procedures established in chapter 29A.52 RCW.

24 (43) "Public office" means any federal, state, judicial, county,  
25 city, town, school district, port district, special district, or  
26 other state political subdivision elective office.

27 (44) "Public record" has the definition in RCW 42.56.010.

28 (45) "Recall campaign" means the period of time beginning on the  
29 date of the filing of recall charges under RCW 29A.56.120 and ending  
30 thirty days after the recall election.

31 (46) "Remediable violation" means any violation of this chapter  
32 that:

33 (a) Involved expenditures or contributions totaling no more than  
34 the contribution limits set out under RCW 42.17A.405(2) per election,  
35 or one thousand dollars if there is no statutory limit;

36 (b) Occurred:

37 (i) More than thirty days before an election, where the  
38 commission entered into an agreement to resolve the matter; or

39 (ii) At any time where the violation did not constitute a  
40 material violation because it was inadvertent and minor or otherwise

1 has been cured and, after consideration of all the circumstances,  
2 further proceedings would not serve the purposes of this chapter;

3 (c) Does not materially harm the public interest, beyond the harm  
4 to the policy of this chapter inherent in any violation; and

5 (d) Involved:

6 (i) A person who:

7 (A) Took corrective action within five business days after the  
8 commission first notified the person of noncompliance, or where the  
9 commission did not provide notice and filed a required report within  
10 twenty-one days after the report was due to be filed; and

11 (B) Substantially met the filing deadline for all other required  
12 reports within the immediately preceding twelve-month period; or

13 (ii) A candidate who:

14 (A) Lost the election in question; and

15 (B) Did not receive contributions over one hundred times the  
16 contribution limit in aggregate per election during the campaign in  
17 question.

18 (47) (a) "Sponsor" for purposes of an electioneering  
19 communications, independent expenditures, or political advertising  
20 means the person paying for the electioneering communication,  
21 independent expenditure, or political advertising. If a person acts  
22 as an agent for another or is reimbursed by another for the payment,  
23 the original source of the payment is the sponsor.

24 (b) "Sponsor," for purposes of a political or incidental  
25 committee, means any person, except an authorized committee, to whom  
26 any of the following applies:

27 (i) The committee receives eighty percent or more of its  
28 contributions either from the person or from the person's members,  
29 officers, employees, or shareholders;

30 (ii) The person collects contributions for the committee by use  
31 of payroll deductions or dues from its members, officers, or  
32 employees.

33 (48) "Sponsored committee" means a committee, other than an  
34 authorized committee, that has one or more sponsors.

35 (49) "State office" means state legislative office or the office  
36 of governor, lieutenant governor, secretary of state, attorney  
37 general, commissioner of public lands, insurance commissioner,  
38 superintendent of public instruction, state auditor, or state  
39 treasurer.

40 (50) "State official" means a person who holds a state office.

1 (51) "Surplus funds" mean, in the case of a political committee  
2 or candidate, the balance of contributions that remain in the  
3 possession or control of that committee or candidate subsequent to  
4 the election for which the contributions were received, and that are  
5 in excess of the amount necessary to pay remaining debts or expenses  
6 incurred by the committee or candidate with respect to that election.  
7 In the case of a continuing political committee, "surplus funds" mean  
8 those contributions remaining in the possession or control of the  
9 committee that are in excess of the amount necessary to pay all  
10 remaining debts or expenses when it makes its final report under RCW  
11 42.17A.255.

12 (52) "Technical correction" means the correction of a minor or  
13 ministerial error in a required report that does not materially harm  
14 the public interest and needs to be corrected for the report to be in  
15 full compliance with the requirements of this chapter.

16 (53) "Treasurer" and "deputy treasurer" mean the individuals  
17 appointed by a candidate or political or incidental committee,  
18 pursuant to RCW 42.17A.210, to perform the duties specified in that  
19 section.

20 (54) "Violation" means a violation of this chapter that is not a  
21 remediable violation, minor violation, or an error classified by the  
22 commission as appropriate to address by a technical correction.

23 **Sec. 22.** RCW 29B.10.270 and 2024 c 164 s 227 are each amended to  
24 read as follows:

25 "Gift" has the definition in RCW (~~(42.52.010)~~) 42.52.150.

26 **Sec. 23.** RCW 42.17A.615 and 2019 c 428 s 32 are each amended to  
27 read as follows:

28 (1) Any lobbyist registered under RCW 42.17A.600 and any person  
29 who lobbies shall file electronically with the commission monthly  
30 reports of the lobbyist's or person's lobbying activities. The  
31 reports shall be made in the form and manner prescribed by the  
32 commission and must be signed by the lobbyist. The monthly report  
33 shall be filed within fifteen days after the last day of the calendar  
34 month covered by the report.

35 (2) The monthly report shall contain:

36 (a) The totals of all expenditures for lobbying activities made  
37 or incurred by the lobbyist or on behalf of the lobbyist by the  
38 lobbyist's employer during the period covered by the report.

1 Expenditure totals for lobbying activities shall be segregated  
2 according to financial category, including compensation; food and  
3 refreshments; living accommodations; advertising; travel;  
4 contributions; and other expenses or services. Each individual  
5 expenditure of more than twenty-five dollars for entertainment shall  
6 be identified by date, place, amount, and the names of all persons  
7 taking part in the entertainment, along with the dollar amount  
8 attributable to each person, including the lobbyist's portion.

9 (b) In the case of a lobbyist employed by more than one employer,  
10 the proportionate amount of expenditures in each category incurred on  
11 behalf of each of the lobbyist's employers.

12 (c) An itemized listing of each contribution of money or of  
13 tangible or intangible personal property, whether contributed by the  
14 lobbyist personally or delivered or transmitted by the lobbyist, to  
15 any candidate, elected official, or officer or employee of any  
16 agency, or any political committee supporting or opposing any ballot  
17 proposition, or for or on behalf of any candidate, elected official,  
18 or officer or employee of any agency, or any political committee  
19 supporting or opposing any ballot proposition. All contributions made  
20 to, or for the benefit of, any candidate, elected official, or  
21 officer or employee of any agency, or any political committee  
22 supporting or opposing any ballot proposition shall be identified by  
23 date, amount, and the name of the candidate, elected official, or  
24 officer or employee of any agency, or any political committee  
25 supporting or opposing any ballot proposition receiving, or to be  
26 benefited by each such contribution.

27 (d) The subject matter of proposed legislation or other  
28 legislative activity or rule making under chapter 34.05 RCW, the  
29 state administrative procedure act, and the state agency considering  
30 the same, which the lobbyist has been engaged in supporting or  
31 opposing during the reporting period, unless exempt under RCW  
32 42.17A.610(2).

33 (e) A listing of each payment for an item specified in RCW  
34 42.52.150(~~(+5)~~) (7) in excess of (~~(fifty dollars)~~) \$100 and each  
35 item specified in RCW (~~(42.52.010(9) (d) and (f))~~) 42.52.150(1)(c)  
36 (iv) and (vi) made to a state elected official, state officer, or  
37 state employee. Each item shall be identified by recipient, date, and  
38 approximate value of the item.

39 (f) The total expenditures paid or incurred during the reporting  
40 period by the lobbyist for lobbying purposes, whether through or on

1 behalf of a lobbyist or otherwise, for (i) political advertising as  
2 defined in RCW 42.17A.005; and (ii) public relations, telemarketing,  
3 polling, or similar activities if the activities, directly or  
4 indirectly, are intended, designed, or calculated to influence  
5 legislation or the adoption or rejection of a rule, standard, or rate  
6 by an agency under the administrative procedure act. The report shall  
7 specify the amount, the person to whom the amount was paid, and a  
8 brief description of the activity.

9 (3) Lobbyists are not required to report the following:

10 (a) Unreimbursed personal living and travel expenses not incurred  
11 directly for lobbying;

12 (b) Any expenses incurred for the lobbyist's own living  
13 accommodations;

14 (c) Any expenses incurred for the lobbyist's own travel to and  
15 from hearings of the legislature;

16 (d) Any expenses incurred for telephone, and any office expenses,  
17 including rent and salaries and wages paid for staff and secretarial  
18 assistance.

19 (4) The commission may adopt rules to vary the content of  
20 lobbyist reports to address specific circumstances, consistent with  
21 this section. Lobbyist reports are subject to audit by the  
22 commission.

23 **Sec. 24.** RCW 29B.50.050 and 2024 c 164 s 477 are each amended to  
24 read as follows:

25 (1) Any lobbyist registered under RCW 29B.50.010 and any person  
26 who lobbies shall file electronically with the commission monthly  
27 reports of the lobbyist's or person's lobbying activities. The  
28 reports shall be made in the form and manner prescribed by the  
29 commission and must be signed by the lobbyist. The monthly report  
30 shall be filed within 15 days after the last day of the calendar  
31 month covered by the report.

32 (2) The monthly report shall contain:

33 (a) The totals of all expenditures for lobbying activities made  
34 or incurred by the lobbyist or on behalf of the lobbyist by the  
35 lobbyist's employer during the period covered by the report.  
36 Expenditure totals for lobbying activities shall be segregated  
37 according to financial category, including compensation; food and  
38 refreshments; living accommodations; advertising; travel;  
39 contributions; and other expenses or services. Each individual

1 expenditure of more than twenty-five dollars for entertainment shall  
2 be identified by date, place, amount, and the names of all persons  
3 taking part in the entertainment, along with the dollar amount  
4 attributable to each person, including the lobbyist's portion.

5 (b) In the case of a lobbyist employed by more than one employer,  
6 the proportionate amount of expenditures in each category incurred on  
7 behalf of each of the lobbyist's employers.

8 (c) An itemized listing of each contribution of money or of  
9 tangible or intangible personal property, whether contributed by the  
10 lobbyist personally or delivered or transmitted by the lobbyist, to  
11 any candidate, elected official, or officer or employee of any  
12 agency, or any political committee supporting or opposing any ballot  
13 proposition, or for or on behalf of any candidate, elected official,  
14 or officer or employee of any agency, or any political committee  
15 supporting or opposing any ballot proposition. All contributions made  
16 to, or for the benefit of, any candidate, elected official, or  
17 officer or employee of any agency, or any political committee  
18 supporting or opposing any ballot proposition shall be identified by  
19 date, amount, and the name of the candidate, elected official, or  
20 officer or employee of any agency, or any political committee  
21 supporting or opposing any ballot proposition receiving, or to be  
22 benefited by each such contribution.

23 (d) The subject matter of proposed legislation or other  
24 legislative activity or rule making under chapter 34.05 RCW, the  
25 state administrative procedure act, and the state agency considering  
26 the same, which the lobbyist has been engaged in supporting or  
27 opposing during the reporting period, unless exempt under RCW  
28 29B.50.040(2).

29 (e) A listing of each payment for an item specified in RCW  
30 42.52.150(~~(+5)~~) (7) in excess of (~~(fifty dollars)~~) \$100 and each  
31 item specified in RCW (~~(42.52.010(9) (d) and (f))~~) 42.52.150(1)(c)  
32 (iv) and (vi) made to a state elected official, state officer, or  
33 state employee. Each item shall be identified by recipient, date, and  
34 approximate value of the item.

35 (f) The total expenditures paid or incurred during the reporting  
36 period by the lobbyist for lobbying purposes, whether through or on  
37 behalf of a lobbyist or otherwise, for (i) political advertising as  
38 defined in RCW 29B.10.410; and (ii) public relations, telemarketing,  
39 polling, or similar activities if the activities, directly or  
40 indirectly, are intended, designed, or calculated to influence

1 legislation or the adoption or rejection of a rule, standard, or rate  
2 by an agency under the administrative procedure act. The report shall  
3 specify the amount, the person to whom the amount was paid, and a  
4 brief description of the activity.

5 (3) Lobbyists are not required to report the following:

6 (a) Unreimbursed personal living and travel expenses not incurred  
7 directly for lobbying;

8 (b) Any expenses incurred for the lobbyist's own living  
9 accommodations;

10 (c) Any expenses incurred for the lobbyist's own travel to and  
11 from hearings of the legislature;

12 (d) Any expenses incurred for telephone, and any office expenses,  
13 including rent and salaries and wages paid for staff and secretarial  
14 assistance.

15 (4) The commission may adopt rules to vary the content of  
16 lobbyist reports to address specific circumstances, consistent with  
17 this section. Lobbyist reports are subject to audit by the  
18 commission.

19 **Sec. 25.** RCW 42.17A.620 and 2010 c 204 s 805 are each amended to  
20 read as follows:

21 (1) When a listing or a report of contributions is made to the  
22 commission under RCW 42.17A.615(2)(c), a copy of the listing or  
23 report must be given to the candidate, elected official, professional  
24 (~~staff member~~) employee of the legislature, or officer or employee  
25 of an agency, or a political committee supporting or opposing a  
26 ballot proposition named in the listing or report.

27 (2) If a state elected official or a member of the official's  
28 immediate family is identified by a lobbyist in a lobbyist report as  
29 having received from the lobbyist an item specified in RCW  
30 ~~42.52.150((5))~~ (7) or ~~((42.52.010(10)(d) or (f)))~~ 42.52.150(1)(c)  
31 (iv) or (vi), the lobbyist shall transmit to the official a copy of  
32 the completed form used to identify the item in the report at the  
33 same time the report is filed with the commission.

34 **Sec. 26.** RCW 29B.50.060 and 2024 c 164 s 478 are each amended to  
35 read as follows:

36 (1) When a listing or a report of contributions is made to the  
37 commission under RCW 29B.50.050(2)(c), a copy of the listing or  
38 report must be given to the candidate, elected official, professional

1 (~~staff member~~) employee of the legislature, or officer or employee  
2 of an agency, or a political committee supporting or opposing a  
3 ballot proposition named in the listing or report.

4 (2) If a state elected official or a member of the official's  
5 immediate family is identified by a lobbyist in a lobbyist report as  
6 having received from the lobbyist an item specified in RCW  
7 42.52.150(~~(5)~~) (7) or (~~(42.52.010(9) (d) or (f))~~) 42.52.150(1)(c)  
8 (iv) or (vi), the lobbyist shall transmit to the official a copy of  
9 the completed form used to identify the item in the report at the  
10 same time the report is filed with the commission.

11 **Sec. 27.** RCW 42.17A.710 and 2023 c 462 s 502 are each amended to  
12 read as follows:

13 (1) The statement of financial affairs required by RCW 42.17A.700  
14 shall disclose the following information for the reporting individual  
15 and each member of the reporting individual's immediate family:

16 (a) Occupation, name of employer, and business address;

17 (b) Each bank account, savings account, and insurance policy in  
18 which a direct financial interest was held that exceeds twenty  
19 thousand dollars at any time during the reporting period; each other  
20 item of intangible personal property in which a direct financial  
21 interest was held that exceeds two thousand dollars during the  
22 reporting period; the name, address, and nature of the entity; and  
23 the nature and highest value of each direct financial interest during  
24 the reporting period;

25 (c) The name and address of each creditor to whom the value of  
26 two thousand dollars or more was owed; the original amount of each  
27 debt to each creditor; the amount of each debt owed to each creditor  
28 as of the date of filing; the terms of repayment of each debt; and  
29 the security given, if any, for each such debt. Debts arising from a  
30 "retail installment transaction" as defined in chapter 63.14 RCW  
31 (retail installment sales act) need not be reported;

32 (d) Every public or private office, directorship, and position  
33 held as trustee; except that an elected official or executive state  
34 officer need not report the elected official's or executive state  
35 officer's service on a governmental board, commission, association,  
36 or functional equivalent, when such service is part of the elected  
37 official's or executive state officer's official duties;

38 (e) All persons for whom any legislation, rule, rate, or standard  
39 has been prepared, promoted, or opposed for current or deferred

1 compensation. For the purposes of this subsection, "compensation"  
2 does not include payments made to the person reporting by the  
3 governmental entity for which the person serves as an elected  
4 official or state executive officer or professional staff member for  
5 the person's service in office; the description of such actual or  
6 proposed legislation, rules, rates, or standards; and the amount of  
7 current or deferred compensation paid or promised to be paid;

8 (f) The name and address of each governmental entity,  
9 corporation, partnership, joint venture, sole proprietorship,  
10 association, union, or other business or commercial entity from whom  
11 compensation has been received in any form of a total value of two  
12 thousand dollars or more; the value of the compensation; and the  
13 consideration given or performed in exchange for the compensation;

14 (g) The name of any corporation, partnership, joint venture,  
15 association, union, or other entity in which is held any office,  
16 directorship, or any general partnership interest, or an ownership  
17 interest of ten percent or more; the name or title of that office,  
18 directorship, or partnership; the nature of ownership interest; and:

19 (i) With respect to a governmental unit in which the official seeks  
20 or holds any office or position, if the entity has received  
21 compensation in any form during the preceding twelve months from the  
22 governmental unit, the value of the compensation and the  
23 consideration given or performed in exchange for the compensation;

24 and (ii) the name of each governmental unit, corporation,  
25 partnership, joint venture, sole proprietorship, association, union,  
26 or other business or commercial entity from which the entity has  
27 received compensation in any form in the amount of ten thousand  
28 dollars or more during the preceding twelve months and the  
29 consideration given or performed in exchange for the compensation. As  
30 used in (g)(ii) of this subsection, "compensation" does not include  
31 payment for water and other utility services at rates approved by the  
32 Washington state utilities and transportation commission or the  
33 legislative authority of the public entity providing the service.  
34 With respect to any bank or commercial lending institution in which  
35 is held any office, directorship, partnership interest, or ownership  
36 interest, it shall only be necessary to report either the name,  
37 address, and occupation of every director and officer of the bank or  
38 commercial lending institution and the average monthly balance of  
39 each account held during the preceding twelve months by the bank or  
40 commercial lending institution from the governmental entity for which

1 the individual is an official or candidate or professional staff  
2 member, or all interest paid by a borrower on loans from and all  
3 interest paid to a depositor by the bank or commercial lending  
4 institution if the interest exceeds two thousand four hundred  
5 dollars;

6 (h) A list, including legal or other sufficient descriptions as  
7 prescribed by the commission, of all real property in the state of  
8 Washington, the assessed valuation of which exceeds ten thousand  
9 dollars in which any direct financial interest was acquired during  
10 the preceding calendar year, and a statement of the amount and nature  
11 of the financial interest and of the consideration given in exchange  
12 for that interest;

13 (i) A list, including legal or other sufficient descriptions as  
14 prescribed by the commission, of all real property in the state of  
15 Washington, the assessed valuation of which exceeds ten thousand  
16 dollars in which any direct financial interest was divested during  
17 the preceding calendar year, and a statement of the amount and nature  
18 of the consideration received in exchange for that interest, and the  
19 name and address of the person furnishing the consideration;

20 (j) A list, including legal or other sufficient descriptions as  
21 prescribed by the commission, of all real property in the state of  
22 Washington, the assessed valuation of which exceeds ten thousand  
23 dollars in which a direct financial interest was held. If a  
24 description of the property has been included in a report previously  
25 filed, the property may be listed, for purposes of this subsection  
26 (1)(j), by reference to the previously filed report;

27 (k) A list, including legal or other sufficient descriptions as  
28 prescribed by the commission, of all real property in the state of  
29 Washington, the assessed valuation of which exceeds twenty thousand  
30 dollars, in which a corporation, partnership, firm, enterprise, or  
31 other entity had a direct financial interest, in which corporation,  
32 partnership, firm, or enterprise a ten percent or greater ownership  
33 interest was held;

34 (l) A list of each occasion, specifying date, donor, and amount,  
35 at which food and beverage in excess of (~~(fifty dollars)~~) \$100 was  
36 accepted under RCW 42.52.150(~~(5)~~) (7);

37 (m) A list of each occasion, specifying date, donor, and amount,  
38 at which items specified in RCW (~~(42.52.010(9) (d) and (f))~~)  
39 42.52.150(1)(c) (iv) and (vi) were accepted; and

1 (n) Such other information as the commission may deem necessary  
2 in order to properly carry out the purposes and policies of this  
3 chapter, as the commission shall prescribe by rule.

4 (2)(a) When judges, prosecutors, sheriffs, participants in the  
5 address confidentiality program under RCW 40.24.030, or their  
6 immediate family members are required to disclose real property that  
7 is the personal residence of the judge, prosecutor, sheriff, or  
8 address confidentiality program participant, the requirements of  
9 subsection (1)(h) through (k) of this section may be satisfied for  
10 that property by substituting:

11 (i) The city or town;

12 (ii) The type of residence, such as a single-family or  
13 multifamily residence, and the nature of ownership; and

14 (iii) Such other identifying information the commission  
15 prescribes by rule for the mailing address where the property is  
16 located.

17 (b) Nothing in this subsection relieves the judge, prosecutor, or  
18 sheriff of any other applicable obligations to disclose potential  
19 conflicts or to recuse oneself.

20 (3)(a) Where an amount is required to be reported under  
21 subsection (1)(a) through (m) of this section, it may be reported  
22 within a range as provided in (b) of this subsection.

23 (b)

24 Code A	Less than thirty thousand dollars;
25 Code B	At least thirty thousand dollars, but less 26 than sixty thousand dollars;
27 Code C	At least sixty thousand dollars, but less 28 than one hundred thousand dollars;
29 Code D	At least one hundred thousand dollars, but 30 less than two hundred thousand dollars;
31 Code E	At least two hundred thousand dollars, but 32 less than five hundred thousand dollars;
33 Code F	At least five hundred thousand dollars, but 34 less than seven hundred and fifty 35 thousand dollars;
36 Code G	At least seven hundred fifty thousand 37 dollars, but less than one million dollars; 38 or

(c) An amount of stock may be reported by number of shares instead of by market value. No provision of this subsection may be interpreted to prevent any person from filing more information or more detailed information than required.

(4) Items of value given to an official's or employee's spouse, domestic partner, or family member are attributable to the official or employee, except the item is not attributable if an independent business, family, or social relationship exists between the donor and the spouse, domestic partner, or family member.

**Sec. 28.** RCW 29B.55.030 and 2024 c 164 s 488 are each amended to read as follows:

(1) The statement of financial affairs required by RCW 29B.55.010 shall disclose the following information for the reporting individual and each member of the reporting individual's immediate family:

(a) Occupation, name of employer, and business address;

(b) Each bank account, savings account, and insurance policy in which a direct financial interest was held that exceeds twenty thousand dollars at any time during the reporting period; each other item of intangible personal property in which a direct financial interest was held that exceeds two thousand dollars during the reporting period; the name, address, and nature of the entity; and the nature and highest value of each direct financial interest during the reporting period;

(c) The name and address of each creditor to whom the value of two thousand dollars or more was owed; the original amount of each debt to each creditor; the amount of each debt owed to each creditor as of the date of filing; the terms of repayment of each debt; and the security given, if any, for each such debt. Debts arising from a "retail installment transaction" as defined in chapter 63.14 RCW (retail installment sales act) need not be reported;

(d) Every public or private office, directorship, and position held as trustee; except that an elected official or executive state officer need not report the elected official's or executive state officer's service on a governmental board, commission, association, or functional equivalent, when such service is part of the elected official's or executive state officer's official duties;

1 (e) All persons for whom any legislation, rule, rate, or standard  
2 has been prepared, promoted, or opposed for current or deferred  
3 compensation. For the purposes of this subsection, "compensation"  
4 does not include payments made to the person reporting by the  
5 governmental entity for which the person serves as an elected  
6 official or state executive officer or professional staff member for  
7 the person's service in office; the description of such actual or  
8 proposed legislation, rules, rates, or standards; and the amount of  
9 current or deferred compensation paid or promised to be paid;

10 (f) The name and address of each governmental entity,  
11 corporation, partnership, joint venture, sole proprietorship,  
12 association, union, or other business or commercial entity from whom  
13 compensation has been received in any form of a total value of two  
14 thousand dollars or more; the value of the compensation; and the  
15 consideration given or performed in exchange for the compensation;

16 (g) The name of any corporation, partnership, joint venture,  
17 association, union, or other entity in which is held any office,  
18 directorship, or any general partnership interest, or an ownership  
19 interest of ten percent or more; the name or title of that office,  
20 directorship, or partnership; the nature of ownership interest; and:

21 (i) With respect to a governmental unit in which the official seeks  
22 or holds any office or position, if the entity has received  
23 compensation in any form during the preceding twelve months from the  
24 governmental unit, the value of the compensation and the  
25 consideration given or performed in exchange for the compensation;

26 and (ii) the name of each governmental unit, corporation,  
27 partnership, joint venture, sole proprietorship, association, union,  
28 or other business or commercial entity from which the entity has  
29 received compensation in any form in the amount of ten thousand  
30 dollars or more during the preceding twelve months and the  
31 consideration given or performed in exchange for the compensation. As  
32 used in (g)(ii) of this subsection, "compensation" does not include  
33 payment for water and other utility services at rates approved by the  
34 Washington state utilities and transportation commission or the  
35 legislative authority of the public entity providing the service.  
36 With respect to any bank or commercial lending institution in which  
37 is held any office, directorship, partnership interest, or ownership  
38 interest, it shall only be necessary to report either the name,  
39 address, and occupation of every director and officer of the bank or  
40 commercial lending institution and the average monthly balance of

1 each account held during the preceding twelve months by the bank or  
2 commercial lending institution from the governmental entity for which  
3 the individual is an official or candidate or professional staff  
4 member, or all interest paid by a borrower on loans from and all  
5 interest paid to a depositor by the bank or commercial lending  
6 institution if the interest exceeds two thousand four hundred  
7 dollars;

8 (h) A list, including legal or other sufficient descriptions as  
9 prescribed by the commission, of all real property in the state of  
10 Washington, the assessed valuation of which exceeds ten thousand  
11 dollars in which any direct financial interest was acquired during  
12 the preceding calendar year, and a statement of the amount and nature  
13 of the financial interest and of the consideration given in exchange  
14 for that interest;

15 (i) A list, including legal or other sufficient descriptions as  
16 prescribed by the commission, of all real property in the state of  
17 Washington, the assessed valuation of which exceeds ten thousand  
18 dollars in which any direct financial interest was divested during  
19 the preceding calendar year, and a statement of the amount and nature  
20 of the consideration received in exchange for that interest, and the  
21 name and address of the person furnishing the consideration;

22 (j) A list, including legal or other sufficient descriptions as  
23 prescribed by the commission, of all real property in the state of  
24 Washington, the assessed valuation of which exceeds ten thousand  
25 dollars in which a direct financial interest was held. If a  
26 description of the property has been included in a report previously  
27 filed, the property may be listed, for purposes of this subsection  
28 (1)(j), by reference to the previously filed report;

29 (k) A list, including legal or other sufficient descriptions as  
30 prescribed by the commission, of all real property in the state of  
31 Washington, the assessed valuation of which exceeds twenty thousand  
32 dollars, in which a corporation, partnership, firm, enterprise, or  
33 other entity had a direct financial interest, in which corporation,  
34 partnership, firm, or enterprise a ten percent or greater ownership  
35 interest was held;

36 (l) A list of each occasion, specifying date, donor, and amount,  
37 at which food and beverage in excess of (~~(fifty dollars)~~) \$100 was  
38 accepted under RCW 42.52.150(~~(+5)~~) (7);

1 (m) A list of each occasion, specifying date, donor, and amount,  
2 at which items specified in RCW (~~42.52.010(9)(d) and (f)~~)  
3 42.52.150(1)(c)(iv) and (vi) were accepted; and

4 (n) Such other information as the commission may deem necessary  
5 in order to properly carry out the purposes and policies of this  
6 title, as the commission shall prescribe by rule.

7 (2)(a) When judges, prosecutors, sheriffs, participants in the  
8 address confidentiality program under RCW 40.24.030, or their  
9 immediate family members are required to disclose real property that  
10 is the personal residence of the judge, prosecutor, sheriff, or  
11 address confidentiality program participant, the requirements of  
12 subsection (1)(h) through (k) of this section may be satisfied for  
13 that property by substituting:

14 (i) The city or town;

15 (ii) The type of residence, such as a single-family or  
16 multifamily residence, and the nature of ownership; and

17 (iii) Such other identifying information the commission  
18 prescribes by rule for the mailing address where the property is  
19 located.

20 (b) Nothing in this subsection relieves the judge, prosecutor, or  
21 sheriff of any other applicable obligations to disclose potential  
22 conflicts or to recuse oneself.

23 (3)(a) Where an amount is required to be reported under  
24 subsection (1)(a) through (m) of this section, it may be reported  
25 within a range as provided in (b) of this subsection.

26 (b)

Code A	Less than thirty thousand dollars;
Code B	At least thirty thousand dollars, but less than sixty thousand dollars;
Code C	At least sixty thousand dollars, but less than one hundred thousand dollars;
Code D	At least one hundred thousand dollars, but less than two hundred thousand dollars;
Code E	At least two hundred thousand dollars, but less than five hundred thousand dollars;
Code F	At least five hundred thousand dollars, but less than seven hundred and fifty thousand dollars;

Code G	At least seven hundred fifty thousand dollars, but less than one million dollars; or
Code H	One million dollars or more.

(c) An amount of stock may be reported by number of shares instead of by market value. No provision of this subsection may be interpreted to prevent any person from filing more information or more detailed information than required.

(4) Items of value given to an official's or employee's spouse, domestic partner, or family member are attributable to the official or employee, except the item is not attributable if an independent business, family, or social relationship exists between the donor and the spouse, domestic partner, or family member.

NEW SECTION. **Sec. 29.** The following acts or parts of acts are each repealed:

- (1) RCW 42.52.140 (Gifts) and 1994 c 154 s 114;
- (2) RCW 42.52.340 (Transfer of jurisdiction) and 1994 c 154 s 204; and
- (3) RCW 42.52.801 (Exemption—Solicitation to promote tourism) and 2003 c 153 s 5.

NEW SECTION. **Sec. 30.** Sections 1, 9, 13, 21, 23, 25, and 27 of this act expire January 1, 2026.

NEW SECTION. **Sec. 31.** Sections 2, 10, 14, 22, 24, 26, and 28 of this act take effect January 1, 2026.

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