

NEW SECTION. Section 1. In order to allow more efficient and effective response to local law enforcement agency requests and to compensate for existing deficiencies in state and federal services, there is appropriated to the Washington state patrol from the general fund for the biennium ending June 30, 1981, the sum of one million one hundred sixty-three thousand dollars, or so much thereof as may be necessary. The purpose of this appropriation is to increase the capabilities of the Washington state patrol crime lab through additional facilities, equipment, and personnel at the existing laboratories in Seattle and Spokane and by establishing four new satellite laboratories in Kelso, the Tri-Cities area, Pierce county, and Snohomish county: **PROVIDED**, That the appropriation contained in this section shall be subject to the following condition or limitation: Up to fifty thousand dollars of this appropriation shall be used to conduct a shared cost feasibility study to be submitted to the house appropriations committee and the senate standing committee on ways and means on or before October 1, 1980.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 2. This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, and safety, the support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and shall take effect immediately.

Passed the House February 15, 1980.

Passed the Senate March 13, 1980.

Approved by the Governor April 4, 1980.

Filed in Office of Secretary of State April 4, 1980.

CHAPTER 165

[House Bill No. 1465]

LEGISLATIVE CODE OF ETHICS—BOARD RECOMMENDATION FOR DISCIPLINARY ACTION

AN ACT Relating to legislative ethics; amending section 6, chapter 150, Laws of 1967 ex. sess. as amended by section 5, chapter 218, Laws of 1977 ex. sess. and RCW 44.60.070; and amending section 8, chapter 218, Laws of 1977 ex. sess. and RCW 44.60.110.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Washington:

Section 1. Section 6, chapter 150, Laws of 1967 ex. sess. as amended by section 5, chapter 218, Laws of 1977 ex. sess. and RCW 44.60.070 are each amended to read as follows:

The joint board shall have the following powers, duties, and functions:

(1) Propose joint rules relating to legislative ethics and revisions or amendments thereto, which when adopted shall be referred to as the legislative code of ethics.

The code, and revisions or amendments thereto, shall be prepared in the form of joint rules of the senate and the house of representatives and shall be submitted in the form of a concurrent resolution at the next session of

the legislature following its preparation. Such code, or revision or amendment thereof, when adopted, shall become effective as standards of conduct for the members and employees of the legislature and shall continue in effect except to the extent revised by subsequent joint rules.

The code submitted to the legislature for adoption shall be approved by a majority of the members of the joint board.

(2) To recommend other legislation and other action relating to legislative ethics.

(3) To develop advisory opinions to systematically establish criteria on which subsequent decisions can be based.

(4) Investigate possible unethical conduct of employees of legislative interim committees in the same manner as hereafter specified for employees of one house.

Sec. 2. Section 8, chapter 218, Laws of 1977 ex. sess. and RCW 44.60-.110 are each amended to read as follows:

Each board shall have the following powers, duties, and functions:

(1) Issue advisory opinions pursuant to RCW 44.60.100.

(2) To provide a continuing program of education, assistance, and information to legislators with regard to legislative ethics.

(3) To make such rules for its own functioning and exercise such powers as may be appropriate for the discharge of the responsibilities of the board not in conflict with this chapter or the joint rules of the legislature.

(4) Investigate possible unethical conduct by legislators or legislative employees of its own house. Any such investigation shall be conducted in accordance with the following procedures:

(a) A complaint may be filed by a legislator, legislative employee, member of the public, a board, or member of a board. Complaints must be written, signed under oath, and directed to the chairman of the appropriate board. The board shall determine if the complaint is within its jurisdiction and whether there are sufficient facts alleged which if true may support a finding of unethical conduct.

(b) If the board finds that the complaint is not within its jurisdiction, or is frivolous, or is made for the purpose of harassment, or that there are insufficient facts alleged which if true may support a finding of unethical conduct, it shall dismiss the complaint, so notify the complainant, the person charged, and the public with a copy of the complaint and the board's reasons for dismissal.

(c) If the board finds that a complaint is within its jurisdiction and there are sufficient facts alleged which if true may support a finding of unethical conduct, such board shall hold an investigative hearing and send a notice to the complainant and the person charged which shall include a copy of the complaint. The person charged shall receive at least thirty days' written notice of such hearing. The notice shall provide that the person charged shall

be entitled to request the board to set an earlier hearing date, present evidence, cross-examine witnesses, be represented by counsel, and file an affidavit of prejudice within ten days of receipt of the notice as provided in subsection (4)(f) of this section.

(d) Investigative hearings shall be closed to the public unless, at least seventy-two hours prior to the hearing, the chairman receives from the person charged a written request that the hearing be open to the public.

(e) A board may designate a subcommittee composed of at least two members of the board, at least half of whom shall be lay members, to conduct investigative hearings. The board, or if designated thereby, any member or subcommittee of the board, may issue subpoenas for the attendance and testimony of witnesses and the production of documentary evidence relating to any matter under examination by the board or involved in any hearing, administer oaths or affirmations, examine witnesses, and receive evidence. In case of disobedience to a subpoena, the board may invoke the aid of any superior court of the state. Such court may, in case of refusal to obey a subpoena issued to such person, issue an order requiring such person to appear before the board, to produce documentary evidence, and/or to give evidence, and any failure to obey such order may be punished by that court as contempt. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, every public official, state agency, and local governmental unit shall furnish to the board any documents, records, data, statements, or information which the board designates as being necessary for the exercise of its functions, powers or duties.

(f) Members of a board shall be disqualified in any case: (i) involving persons whom such members cannot judge impartially, in which cases they shall disqualify themselves; or (ii) where the person charged files an affidavit of prejudice against a member or members whom he believes is unable to make an impartial judgment, in which case the disqualification shall be automatic: PROVIDED, That only one such affidavit may be filed in a single investigation. Whenever a member of the board is disqualified, the appropriate caucus chairman shall appoint pro tem, a replacement legislator or lay member as appropriate. Such appointment shall be subject to the consent of the caucus wherein the appointment is made.

(g) At the conclusion of the investigative hearings, a statement of findings of fact shall be prepared based upon evidence presented at the hearings. A copy of this statement shall be sent to the person charged who shall have at least ten days to offer a written rebuttal to the board. The board, on the basis of the findings of fact, any written rebuttal, and applicable standards of ethical conduct shall make a preliminary report which shall be subject to review and the rendering of a decision at the final hearing. Copies of the findings of fact, preliminary report, and notice of the date for a final hearing shall be sent by registered mail to the person charged. Such person may rebut the report not later than one week prior to the final hearing date,

but shall in any event have a period of not less than two weeks in which to respond.

(h) The final hearing shall be open to the public. There shall be available at the hearing copies of the board's findings of fact, preliminary report, and any written rebuttal received by the board from the person charged. The board shall, on the basis of these documents and any final statement made by the person charged, render a final decision as to whether the facts justify a finding of unethical conduct. A final decision must be agreed upon by at least six members of the board. The board shall notify the appropriate law enforcement agency directly if the board makes a finding that it has reasonable grounds to believe that a criminal violation has occurred.

(i) If the board in its final decision determines that the facts support a finding of unethical conduct, it shall include in its decision a specific recommendation for disciplinary action which may include but is not necessarily limited to: (i) In the case of a legislator, reprimand, censure, or expulsion, and when applicable, restitution; and (ii) in the case of a legislative employee, reprimand, suspension, or dismissal, and when applicable, restitution. Such decision shall be transmitted to the chief clerk of the house or the secretary of the senate as appropriate. Such officer shall deliver the report to his house at such time as that house is in session, for such action as that house deems appropriate.

(j) Upon receipt, complaints shall be assigned a reference number. Each board shall maintain and keep current for public inspection a status sheet which shall contain with respect to each complaint: Its reference number, the date received by the board, and its present status, including the date of any hearings scheduled. The name of the complainant and the person charged shall be entered on the status sheet following the notification provided for in subsection (4)(c) of this section.

The secretary of the senate and the chief clerk of the house of representatives shall make available to the public copies of the status sheets, findings of fact, written rebuttals, preliminary reports, and final decisions issued by their respective boards.

Passed the House March 12, 1980.

Passed the Senate March 11, 1980.

Approved by the Governor April 4, 1980.

Filed in Office of Secretary of State April 4, 1980.

CHAPTER 166

[House Bill No. 1508]

RIDE-SHARING VEHICLES—EXCISE TAX EXEMPTIONS

AN ACT Relating to energy conservation tax exemptions; adding a new section to chapter 82.08 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 82.12 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 82.44 RCW; providing an expiration date; and declaring an emergency.